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The Sixth Lecture of this Course, "On Vegetable Substances used in the Arts and Manufactures in relation to Commerce generally," will be delivered by Professor EDWARD SOLLY, F.R.S., &c. on WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 21, at Eight o'clock.

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THESE volumes are of a class and character always welcome:—no matter whether lively or dull, of greater or of less value,—they contain facts. It is quite true that the facts to be found in contemporary letters and memoirs are often distorted by prejudice or coloured by passion; but this is a known condition,—and we are therefore prepared to make those reasonable allowances in each case which must be made in all, and to submit questionable points to the test of like authorities.—The volumes contain the letters from and to Lord Temple and his brother George Grenville—with the private diaries of the latter—and extend from 1742 to the close of 1764. They are to be followed, as we understand the preface, by other volumes:—the whole extending over a period of thirty or more years. Such a work must be acceptable. It must throw light, more or less, on a hundred obscure points of interest; and especially on the last few glorious years of George the Second and the first ten inglorious years of George the Third,—with which, whether in the ministry or in the opposition, the names of Pitt, Temple, and Grenville are for ever associated.

The Grenvilles, as our readers will remember, were the children of Mr. Richard Grenville, of Wotton, by Hester Temple, sister and co-heir of Sir Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham of Stowe. Their mother succeeded to the peerage by special remainder,—and was soon after advanced to the dignity of Countess Temple. Mr. Pitt married their only sister. Besides Lord Temple and Mr. George Grenville, there were three other brothers—James, Henry, and Thomas,—and if we mistake not they were all in parliament. This was a formidable phalanx—in number, character and ability—while in alliance; but, as with other and less holy alliances, self-interest and ambition often separated its members, and they were at times opposed—brothers and brothers-in-law—with all the bitterness of disappointed affection.

Richard Grenville, the eldest son, who succeeded to the title on the death of his mother in 1752, and is best remembered as Earl Temple, was in our opinion one of the most straightforward, honest, and honourable men of his age,—though we remember to have seen, we know not on what authority, some question raised as to his political conduct in the latter part of his life. But Mr. George Grenville is the favourite of most writers,—probably influenced by Burke's eulogium: and, judging by some casual paragraphs, we suspect that the editor of the work before us inclines towards the same opinion. They were both of "mark and likelihood." Lord Temple was a man of high spirit,—impetuous, generous, daring. We have a fine trait of his character when the party were driven from office in November 1755:—

"Earl Temple to Lady Hester Pitt.

"Nov. 20, 1755.

"MY DEAR LADY HESTER,—I cannot defer till to-morrow morning making a request to you, upon the success of which I have so entirely set my heart, that I flatter myself you will not refuse it me. I must entreat you to make use of all your interest with Mr. Pitt to give his brother Temple leave to become his debtor for a thousand pounds a year 'till better times: Mr. P. will never have it in his power to confer so great an obligation upon, dear Lady Hester, your most truly affectionate brother, TEMPLE."

Lord Temple was amongst the first who led an opposition on purely constitutional grounds. Before the reign of George the Third it had been all faction,—for or against a minister—for or against a family—the house of Hanover or the house of Stuart. Temple was against arbitrary power, no matter whether exercised by one estate or by the other,—against all power other than the power and supremacy of law. Mr. Grenville was the reverse of his brother. Cool, deliberate, diligent, laborious—as Burke said, "he took public business not as a duty he was to fulfil, but as a pleasure he was to enjoy." He had a great deal of that sort of knowledge "which passeth show"; and amidst the brilliant coruscations of Pitt, and Townshend, and Murray, and other splendid talkers or orators, he was as prosy, as dull, and as forcibly feeble as if he had been a member of parliament in the days of Queen Victoria. He is said to have had an intimate knowledge of what is called the law of parliament,—and there is no doubt that for a long period his hopes and his ambition were the Speaker's chair. But the accident and the necessities of the hour made him a leading minister; and by his subservience, which did not in the end serve to attain its purpose—the issuing of General Warrants—and the attempt to tax America—he did as much mischief in some eighteen months as any minister of ability would have dared to risk in a whole life of power. He was a man of irreproachable moral character, and, as generally believed, of great personal integrity. That he was above personal corruption, we do not doubt; but it is equally beyond doubt that he loved office for its salary as well as for its labour,—and that he and his brother-in-law, Lord Egremont, did contrive during their short term of office to secure grants, places, reversions, even for their children of four and five years of age, to an extent quite incredible.—This was an error common enough in that day:—but nobly redeemed in this case by one of Mr. Grenville's sons in our time—the late Hon. Thomas Grenville,—who resigned the enormous profits of his sinecure for the benefit of his country, to which he also bequeathed his splendid library.

Both Lord Temple and his brother George—and, we may add, the Right Hon. Henry and the Right Hon. James—were in office with Mr. Pitt from 1756 to October 1761. When Mr. Pitt and Temple threw up, Mr. George Grenville separated from them, remained under Lord Bute, and was made secretary of state. Hence the estrangement for a time from his brother, and for many years from Mr. Pitt. In the correspondence, therefore, and for an important period, we get an insight into the views, feelings, and opinions of both the great factions which then divided the country, and from Mr. George Grenville an elaborate defence of his conduct. In 1766 all the policy and relations of the family were again changed. Mr. Pitt then committed the great error of his life—accepted a peerage—"stumbled up stairs," as Chesterfield called it—which removed him from his old place of power, and shook the faith of the people,—accepted office, though Temple refused to join with him,—formed his famous marquetry ministry, black and white, good and bad, whig and tory,—was soon heartily ashamed of his associates,—saw his error, perceived how weak they were,—and to such a temper and temperament "to be weak is to be miserable,"—had fits of gout or of insanity, the coming volumes may determine which,—and withdrew altogether from the House, the Cabinet, and society, until he was enabled to back out:—when he at once joined Temple, George Grenville and the opposition, as fresh and vigorous as ever.

We get in these volumes some occasional insights into character which are not unamusing. No sooner were the family party admitted into office in 1756, than Temple threw a fire-ball amongst them. A change of ministry he understood to imply a change of policy, and as he and his friends had been resolute against employing the Hessian troops—"foreign mercenaries," as they were called in popular phrase—he and they were now resolved that these should return to Germany. This had been agreed to; but to conciliate the King, whose prejudices were well known, "a compliment of mere decency," as Lord Waldegrave calls it, was introduced into the proposed address. Temple, however, would not tolerate it; and though not we believe actually gazetted, he thus wrote to the Duke of Devonshire, the first lord of the Treasury:—

"I am much concerned to hear that some words now stand part of our address to which there are the highest exceptions; I mean that part in which we are to thank His Majesty for bringing over his Electoral troops, the various improprieties of which are so striking, that it seems the whole Cabinet, at which I had the great misfortune of not being able to attend, unanimously declared against them. It imports me so much to take a public part against them, that if it be possible for me at any rate, I will go down to the House of Lords to-morrow, and lay my thoughts before them in the fullest and clearest manner; and if I should not be able to do it then, I will take the first opportunity I can of disculpating myself and my own honour. This is a very unfortunate step at the outset, and such a one as Mr. Pitt and I judge will tend to the speedy dissolution of a system of which I cannot make a part longer than I am able to prove myself consistent with myself."

The subject was not quietly dropped. Temple was, as ever, resolute,—Mr. Pitt, as ever, more disposed to conciliate and humour the King. We infer this from the following letters of the 12th and 14th of December:—

"The bill proposed to be moved to-morrow is, to quarter the Hessian troops during their continuance here, and until their departure. I understand you will find the country gentlemen quite for it. George Townshend is eager for it. You need not fear the stay of the Hessians here. You might depend that I should not have given in to this matter if I had not seen the ground clear. The Court, perhaps, rather look on this step as a slur than as a favour.—Good night. Ever yours, W. Pitt."

"I desire you will tell Mr. Legge and Lord Barrington, that I strongly recommend to him to keep the words, *the said foreign troops*, and to adhere inflexibly to maintain the bill throughout, relative only, and confined to the exigency that demands the immediate provision, referring the consideration of the general policy of foreign troops at large to its proper and only time and place, the approaching Mutiny Bill. This ground I know to be so tenable, that Fox's attempt to gravel us will be baffled, and his *strong sense*, as White's may think it, concerning Dutch, &c., to come in summer, the poorest stuff that ever was uttered."

With all Mr. Pitt's disposition to conciliate, the Duke of Cumberland was resolved against him and his whole party,—a party which had established itself in public opinion by its opposition to German wars, German subsidies, and German alliances. The duke was now about to start for Germany, and enter on that celebrated campaign which ended in the disgraceful Convention of Closter-Seven; and he insisted, as a preliminary condition, that there should be a change of ministers. Temple thus announced the event to his brother:—

"Little did you expect to be called from all the dirt of Wotton to the cleanly and delectable operation of resigning an honourable and lucrative employment, yet such is your hard fate. Before you can receive this, I shall like another Damien, be hanged, and drawn, and quartered, after having been kept alive upon the rack for some days. The black funereal Earl of Winchelsea succeeds me, ac-

accompanied by Lord Hyde, Sir W. Rowley, Admirals Boscawen and Mostyn, Hamilton and Sandys. Sir F. Dashwood has had it offered to him, and Forbes they meant to have, but the king would not hear of it. Elliot by a kind indulgence may likewise stay, if he pleases. Further than this is not yet settled, at least as we can learn. I am to receive my letter of dismission to-morrow. The D. of N., it is said, remains as you left him. What to-morrow will produce, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, I know not: I only know that all the friends mean to throw up I believe on Thursday, so you may be in town early enough for so delightful a function. How this has come to pass and so forth, you know almost as well as I do; perhaps your brother Egremont has writ you this most terrible news by Saturday's post; and then what I tell you has not even novelty to recommend it. The world is at a gaze, and when they wake from their astonishment, I fancy the new-fangled nonsense will go to pot."

—So it did. The nation rose as one man. Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge were overwhelmed with addresses and "freedom" in gold boxes, and were recalled within three months—dictating their own terms. The history of the next four years is written in immortal characters in the Annals of the Nation; the letters, therefore, of the period are comparatively unimportant.

Then came the reign of Bute and George the Third, and the resignations, in October 1761, of both Pitt and Temple, when George Grenville deserted the old regiment and enlisted under Bute. We have amongst these Papers a Vindication of his conduct; and it is curious to find how many unheard-of grounds of complaint had long existed to justify his secession. There is also a sort of historical sketch in the handwriting of Mrs. Grenville, which is not without interest from its dramatic vividness.—

"On Saturday the 3rd of October, 1761, an express arrived at Wotton at two o'clock in the morning, which brought a letter to Mr. Grenville from Mr. Jenkinson (secretary to Lord Bute), wrote by Lord Bute's order, and sent by the King's command, to acquaint Mr. Grenville that Mr. Pitt had declared his resolution in Council the preceding day, upon the refusal to commence hostilities against Spain, to resign, and to desire him (Mr. Grenville) to come to London with all possible expedition. He set out at four o'clock in the morning, and between Amersham and Chalfont met Lord Temple, who was coming from London. Mr. Grenville stopped the chaises, got into Lord Temple's, and told his Lordship he was very sorry for the news he heard, and that he was sent for to town in consequence of it by the King's command. Lord Temple told him what had passed in the Council relating to the War with Spain, and upon which his Lordship and Mr. Pitt had determined to resign. Mr. Grenville said that supposing Mr. Pitt being the hand to execute, thought he had reason to withdraw, and which, as no orders were to be given, Mr. Grenville could not think necessary, said Lord Temple did not stand in the same case, and asked if he had any particular cause of complaint against any of the minority personally to himself, that if he had, he (Mr. Grenville) would adopt it to the utmost; he said no, on the contrary, he believed they would use him well enough, but that he thought he could not, while he held the Privy Seal, withdraw from Council, and he was determined to go there no more; that he came out of town to avoid talking with anybody upon the subject; that the measure singly regarded Mr. Pitt and himself; that he did not see another person in the kingdom who ought to resign for the same cause; that he himself would not have resigned but from the peculiarity of his situation, and that he was going to write to this effect to Mr. James Grenville as soon as he got to Stowe, and desire he would on no account think of leaving the office he then held. Mr. Grenville told him he had been sent for up to town; he desired he would go and do whatever he thought best for himself, and again repeated that he saw no other person in the kingdom that ought to resign upon that measure except Mr. Pitt and himself. When Mr. Grenville came to town Lord Bute opened to him the King's intention of giving

the seals to him, which Mr. Grenville absolutely declined, though earnestly pressed to it by Lord Bute from the King, by every argument that could be suggested, and afterwards by Lord Egremont, but he remained firm in his determination. Mr. Pitt was not in town when Mr. Grenville came; he came on the Monday following. Mr. Grenville went to see him; the visit passed civilly, though Mr. Grenville differed from him in opinion as to the measure concerning Spain, and his intended resignation. He returned the visit after he had given up the seals, spoke with great decency and gratitude of the King; and upon Mr. Grenville's saying he was glad to hear His Majesty intended him a mark of his favour, Mr. Pitt assented to it, but said it did not become him to point out what it should be. Mr. Grenville said he saw no impropriety in it if there was anything particular he wished. The seals were given to Lord Egremont at Mr. Grenville's recommendation, and the King expressed his earnest desire to Mr. Grenville that though he had declined the seals, he should give up the thoughts of being Speaker, wishing for the good of his Government that Mr. Grenville should carry on His Majesty's business in the House of Commons. Mr. Grenville made a stand against this proposition, earnestly desiring His Majesty would allow him to go into the Chair, which situation was on many accounts far the most eligible to him; he stated the disjointed situation of the Ministry, his own want of support, the danger His Majesty ran of being obliged to abandon a faithful servant whom he would leave in the midst of his enemies, and by that means deprive of the power of being useful to him. Lord Bute, to obviate these objections, sent a letter to Mr. Grenville by Mr. Elliot, laying down a plan of his future conduct, giving Mr. Grenville the fullest assurances of the King's support of him through all difficulties, saying the King put the whole upon it; 'that Mr. Grenville's honour was the King's honour, his disgrace would be the King's disgrace.' Mr. Elliot showed him this letter, but said he had orders from Lord Bute to bring it back again to him, which he did; but Mr. Grenville made Mrs. Grenville set down the heads of it immediately, which he repeated to her. Mr. Grenville obeyed the King's commands, and consented to take the lead in the House of Commons, continuing Treasurer of the Navy and Cabinet Councillor, and upon Mr. Prowse declining it, Sir John Cust was determined upon for Speaker. When Lord Bute told Mr. Grenville of Mr. Pitt's resignation, Mr. Grenville mentioned what he apprehended to be the distressed state of his private affairs, and as much as possible forwarded Lord Bute's disposition to recommend to the King to give him a mark of favour. Mr. Elliot was the person who transacted it with Mr. Pitt, and he several times pressed him to declare what was the particular thing he wished: the government of Canada, or the Chancellor of the Duchy, were offered and declined. He then named the peerage, and the fund for the annuity, to avoid its being a pension upon Ireland, and earnestly pressed the peerage for Lady Chatham, notwithstanding what he had before said on that head to Mr. Grenville. The King was with great difficulty brought to consent to this, though Mr. Pitt states it as His Majesty's own spontaneous act. When Mr. Pitt went into the closet to resign the Seals, he was so struck with the King's goodness to him that he burst into tears, wished to remain a private man unrewarded, that his future conduct of duty and loyalty might mark his gratitude to his Sovereign."

Whatever may have been the exact force of the consenting words of Lord Temple at the post-chaise meeting, he and the whole family appear to have resented Mr. George Grenville's conduct. The following are proofs from his wife's narrative.—

"Lord Temple came to town on Thursday the 8th of October, and resigned some days after Mr. Pitt. Mr. Grenville went immediately to call upon him, and repeated his visits frequently for a long time, 'till he was informed Lord Temple had given directions never to let him in; he was, therefore, never admitted to see him, nor has ever exchanged one word with him since. Mr. James Grenville resigned his office of Cofferer soon after. Mr. Grenville went to see him and was let in; he found Mr.

Elliot there; but Mr. James's behaviour was so very rude and offensive that he went away immediately, and took Mr. Elliot with him."

Mr. Grenville was now installed in the high office of Secretary of State. But he had not got comfortably seated before differences arose between him and Lord Bute about the terms of the Peace; and soon after, Lord Bute opened a negotiation with Mr. Fox, on the condition that Mr. Grenville should be removed to the Admiralty.—

"During the summer, when the negotiation for the Peace was set on foot, Mr. Grenville had many struggles with Lord Bute upon the terms, which he was desirous to keep up higher than Lord Bute (who feared the negotiation might break off) could be brought to consent to. Mr. Grenville represented strongly against the giving up Guadaloupe and Santa Lucia, wanted to have an equivalent asked for Guadaloupe, and insisted and prevailed to have a compensation for the Havannah. Guadaloupe was given up at an Extraordinary Council called when Mr. Grenville was ill in bed, and not able to attend it. This difference of opinion between Lord Bute and him gave grounds to his enemies to work with greater success than they had hitherto done. In the course of that week Lord Halifax had been employed to sound the Duke of Newcastle, who had declined all treaty. Mr. Grenville had seen Lord Bute on the Friday (October 8th), who told him no negotiation was then on foot, though it is since known with the utmost certainty that Lord Shelburne went down to Mr. Fox at Margate, on Wednesday the 6th, to know whether he was willing to undertake the King's business. On Saturday, the 9th of October, Mr. Jenkinson came to Lord Egremont's, where Mr. Grenville then was, at an assembly, and desired to speak to him. He went with him into another room, and told him that Lord Bute had ordered him to acquaint him that the King had thought it expedient, to obviate the difficulties likely to arise in Parliament, to call Mr. Fox to take the lead in his Government. Mr. Grenville said he could give no answer to this extraordinary message; that when he saw Lord Bute he should speak to him upon it. A note came from Lord Bute on Sunday evening, desiring Mr. Grenville to come to him on Monday morning, which when he did, he opened the measure to him: he said some civilities in relation to the King's reluctance in parting with Mr. Grenville, and his own concern at the measure; but that though the King found himself obliged to do this, he hoped it would be but for a time; that his Majesty hoped Mr. Grenville would still continue in his service; that he intended to make Lord Halifax Secretary of State, and Mr. Grenville First Commissioner of the Admiralty. Mr. Grenville entered his protest very strongly against the step the King was going to take, stated the improbability of facilitating his affairs by calling in so unpopular a man as Mr. Fox, and foretold the ill success which must attend so desperate a measure: that as he himself had been called upon by his Majesty to resist Mr. Fox's power, that he had obeyed him by sacrificing to his commands a situation of ease, profit, and honour; that he did not now shrink from danger; he saw none to alarm him; but at the same time if His Majesty thought it expedient to make the change, he should acquiesce; he never had, nor ever would, squabble for offices; that in Parliament he should support the Peace, but as to everything else, must follow his own opinions. Mr. Grenville held pretty near the same language to the King, who seemed pleased with his acquiescence; he always entered his protest against the measure, dwelling strongly upon the ill success which must attend it; the King said 'we must call in bad men to govern bad men'; but often said he hoped it was but for a time, the expedient of the moment only. Mr. Fox began his administration by almost a thorough change in all the offices which were held by the Duke of Newcastle's friends. The first day of the session of Parliament the mob were so enraged at Lord Bute that they followed the chariot in which he was, with gross abuse, and when he came to go away in his chair, it was almost thrown down, and he was insulted. In the end of March (1763) Lord Bute sent to Mr. Grenville to acquaint him that he was determined to retire from public business; that he had brought the King

to consent to his doing so; that his health and his ease required it; that in this state there was nobody whom the King so much wished to see at the head of the Treasury as Mr. Grenville; that for his own part he was determined to be a private man for the rest of his days, never to intermeddle in government, and that he was going out of town with his family to drink the waters at Harrogate."

It is obvious to a looker-on, even from his own narrative, that Mr. Grenville was never considered as the efficient Secretary of State—as the controlling power;—and even when Lord Bute fled, frightened, he was admitted only as one of a triumvirate—appointed that they might neutralize each other, and leave the whole power in the hands of the King or of the favourite.

We have run somewhat hastily over the first volume, and shall reserve the second for another occasion.

"Excelsior;" or, the Realms of Poesie. By Alastor. Pickering.

THAT the reader has here to do with a mysterious book may be gathered from its cover,—which bears a device reminding us of the pictures annually put forth by *Zadkiel, Raphael*, and other such sorcerers. Underneath a crescent moon and a tolerably thick crop of large and little stars, is seen floating on waters or clouds an oval curiosity girt with a garter, from the upper portion of which sprouts a hand with a finger pointing moon-wards. This floating marvel may be either a tolerably large turtle or a section of the globe. When the book is opened, 'Excelsior' proves to be as mysterious as the sign on its back promised.—First comes a preface,—afterwards a note, which is neither more nor less than a hymn to the "giant mind" of Mr. Gilfillan. Thus runs the anthem.—

"The two 'Galleries of Literary Portraits' [says Alastor] form a waving forest of grand imagery; wide information; liberal and just criticism; philosophical acumen, and generous enthusiasm. No praise of mine could touch the pale of that awful Sinai, whose grand imagery hangs over and folds around it, even as that dread mountain when it shook with the thunder and lightnings of the immediate Godhead; I allude to those grand outpourings of a majestic soul to the Eternal, whose crystal floods are gathered within his last great work 'The Bards of the Bible.' * * It is a tome let down from the spirit-world; it is an altar raised to the great I AM, piled with golden thoughts, and flame-like utterances. Mountain range after range of vast and glowing thought stretch away into the holy land of Heaven, and over all gradually spreads the Night-like majesty of Bible-wisdom till its religious firmament is sanded with the brilliant stars of revelation, to which Gilfillan's soul is as the telescope, bringing whole hidden galaxies to view."

After giving such a passage from such a prelude, we should be fully justified were we to close the subject. But it is perpetually insisted by the friends and admirers of those criticized that by one specimen alone should no work be welcomed or condemned. Accordingly, "to make assurance of the folly doubly sure," we will take a few more lines from subsequent pages of Alastor's mysterious book, confining ourselves to his notices of various poets. Mrs. Hemans is horticulturally commended as follows.—

"Her quill fell from the gorgeous wings of the Bird of Paradise, and was dipped in moonlight, with which she wrote those thoughts which are as the delicious waftings of jasmine, mignonette, and the richest rose. More refreshing are they to the weary pilgrim of life's arid desert than the cool rich milk and luscious kernel of the cocon-nut, found in some fertile oasis. Her poetry is one of the purest gems locked in the world's wealthy casket of Imagination. She softens all hearts by her exquisite beauty; lofty and low minds love her equally, for she is the dear sister of all mankind."

The Dean of St. Paul's is introduced with some extra thumps of the gong.—

"We are surprised that this poet is not more universally known by his countrymen! There is an orieny of colour about his imagination that dyes every object upon which it falls with the richest tints. Or it may be compared to the richly-stained window of some dim cathedral, which throws on every spot or figure over which the light passing through it falls, a most heavenly and saintly glory. His 'Fall of Jerusalem' has a fresh breezy beauty and delightfulness about it, joined with a vigorous action, that carries us on a bold, rapid stream to its conclusion."

The deceased Poet of Brewhill as here described might be the "damp stranger" of Brummell's well-known excuse.—But Alastor's sermon on Chatterton is the most solemn bit of all.—

"A grand lightning bolt, that burst and destroyed itself as soon as it left the clouds (of imagination) and touched the chilly earth. He would have made a mighty poet had he lived. Without entering into the merits of the Rowley controversy at length, let us merely draw this lesson from his unhappy fate,—that wherever Genius descends to the pits of Falsehood, that the gnawing demons of Self-Contempt and Disgust seize the victim as their lawful prey,—until Repentance or Suicide relieve the poor wretch from his misery."

It appears that 'Excelsior' is a reprint, with supplementary matter, of a book already privately circulated and approved by some of those whom Alastor holds to be chiefs of literature. By way of *finale* he publishes testimonials from them. Mr. Gilfillan accredits 'Excelsior' as "a glowing, murmuring, meandering, earnest, little book." Mr. Bailey, author of 'Festus,' Mr. Robert Hunt, Mr. W. C. Kent, Dr. Mackay, Dr. Bosworth, and Mr. Atherstone are subsequently pressed into the laudatory service. How far these gentlemen will like to figure in the fashion of the nobility and gentry who recommend Dr. —'s corn-cutting dexterity, or who, burning with enthusiasm and comfort, order their "seventh *Transparent Camlome* and *Universally Convertible Paletot* from Messrs. —'s unrivalled establishment,"—we cannot decide,—but we think they deserve the visitation which their praise of lucubrations like these has provoked. The reader will hardly require any judgment of ours concerning 'Excelsior,'—having himself listened to the speech of the book, and being guaranteed by such a list of testifying admirers as the above.

The Household of Sir Thomas More. Arthur Hall & Co.

ALTHOUGH we are no friends to the species of fabrication to which this work belongs, we are willing to admit that, like 'Lady Willoughby's Diary,' which it imitates, it is clever and agreeable reading. It might have been much more so had the writer been a better master of style,—and had he, or she, by the consistent adoption of the mode of thinking, writing and speaking three centuries ago carried us back to the reign of Henry the Eighth. We are not favoured with a word of explanatory introduction or preface; but from the title-page we plunge at once into the subject,—and are left to find out for ourselves that the book purports to be the diary of Margaret More, who subsequently became the wife of William Roper, who wrote a life of her father. The very first page and the first sentence of that page show that the author knew little of the forms of expression in use at the period supposed to be embraced by the volume,—and is more at home in cockneyisms, and even in Yankeeisms, than in the language of our forefathers. It opens thus, under the date of "June 18th," without any condescendence upon the year, except that

we are told that the imaginary journalist was *quindecim annos nata*.—

"On asking Mr. Gunnel to what Use I should put this fuyr *Libellus*, he did suggest my making it a Kinde of family Register, wherein to note the more important of our domestick Passages, whether of Joy or Griefe—my Father's Journeys and Absences—the Visits of learned Men, their notable Sayings, &c. 'You are smart at the Pen, Mistress Margaret,' he was pleased to say, and I would humbly advise your journalling in the same fearless Manner in the which you framed that Letter, which soe well pleased the Bishop of Exeter, &c."

If the author has had any idea of really imposing upon readers, or has fancied himself (or herself) to be writing in the style and manner of the period when Sir Thomas More flourished,—nothing could well be more unfortunate. It is not a few words uncouthly spelt that are sufficient to support the delusion, in opposition to the use of terms and phraseology so merely modern as "suggest," "journeys," "making it a kinde of family register,"—and, above all, the information that the young lady was "smart at the pen," which we take to be purely American. Another example of the same kind occurs later in the volume, where Sir Thomas More is made to say that "he reckons" that one thing is not as great as another. But we might refer to hundreds of places where the incongruity is remarkable, and establishes that the writer is no adept at this species of literary masquerading. Indeed, it seems to us somewhat surprising that the mere circumstance of consulting the old biographies of More by his son-in-law and by his great-grandson, where the sayings of the old Chancellor are given nearly in the very words which he employed, did not almost unconsciously produce something of the verisimilitude essential to productions of this character.

It is possible, however, that these old biographies were not consulted;—and certainly there is nothing in the volume before us to show that resort was had to any original authorities. We do not complain of this last,—because it is not easy to get at, or even to point out, any such unexplored sources of information; but even if Lord Campbell's *Life of More* afforded (as it would) all the materials to which the author before us has had recourse, the anecdotes there narrated are so much in the language of Roper and his successor, that it would have been a task of no great difficulty to adapt the intermediate portions of the diary to the style and manner of what we may be sure came from the lips of the chief personage in the composition. It is but fair to admit that this error is not so obvious at the conclusion as at the commencement of the work,—as if a knowledge of the manner in which our language was employed towards the opening of the sixteenth century had grown as the writer proceeded. A better preparation therefore for the work would have rendered the fault much less apparent. Still, up to the very latest page we notice the same discordance of parts;—and the rhapsodical apostrophe to "the bright shining Thames" at the end is, in every respect, in a taste that happily did not prevail at the time when Margaret Roper is supposed to have put together the materials for this "kinde of family register."

It will be observed that we have dealt doubtfully so far with the sex of the writer; but unless we are much deceived, this work is the composition of a lady. Feminine modes of thought and turns of expression constantly peep out; and although it may be answered, that this should be so, as the whole is pretended to be the production of a woman,—she was not a woman who was at all likely to employ terms and phrases that rather belong to modern works of fancy and fiction than to a grave and temperate relation of antiquated facts. Besides,

we are treated with a love scene between Roper and his intended, which could hardly have come from any but a female pen. In the following few sentences are one or two that we apprehend could scarcely have been written by any but a lady.—

"I cannot help smiling, whenever I think of my Rencontre with William this Morning. Mr. Gunnell had set me Homer's tiresome List of Ships; and, because of the excessive Heate within Doors, I took my Book into the Nuttury, to be beyonde the Wrath of far-darting Phœbus Apollo, where I clomb into my favourite Filbert Seat. Anon comes William through the Trees without seeing me; and seats him at the Foot of my Filbert; then, out with his Tablets, and, in a Posture I should have called studded, had he known anie one within Sighte, falls a poetizing, I question not. Having noe Mind to be interrupted, I lett him be, thinking he would soone exhaust the Vein; but a Caterpillar dropping from the Leaves on to my Page, I was fayne, for Mirthe sake, to shake it down on his Tablets. As ill Luck would have it, however, the little Reptile onlie fell among his Curles; which soe took me at Vantage that I coule not helpe hastilie crying, 'I beg your Pardon.' 'Twas worth a World to see his Start! 'What!' cries he, looking up, 'are there indeede Hama-dryads?' and would have gallanted a little, but I bade him hold down his Head, while that with a Twig I switched off the Caterpillar. Neither coulede forbear laughing; and then he sued me to step downe, but I was minded to abide where I was. Howbeit, after a Minute's Pause, he sayd, in a grave, kind Tone, 'Come, little Wife;' and taking mine Arm steadilie in his Hand, I lost my Balance and was faine to come down whether or noe. We walked for some Time *juxta Fluvium*; and he talked not badlie of his Travels, insonmuch as I founde there was really more in him than one would think."

We may remark, by the way, that filberts in this country now grow only upon shrubs,—and not upon trees of such height and strength that young ladies may be perched in them, while their lovers repose below; and we will venture to say that nobody in the reign of Henry the Eighth used such phrases as "I beg your pardon," "as ill luck would have it," and "I found there was really more in him," however well they may be adapted to modern colloquy.

Margaret Roper's supposed record embraces the whole important part of her father's career, from the time he was Judge of the Sheriff's Court to his decapitation. The circumstances attending the latter event are narrated with a good deal of forcible simplicity,—and constitute, unquestionably, the best written, though not the most pleasing, portion of the work. We cannot help thinking that the writer, whether lady or gentleman, has imputed too much to the instrumentality of Anne Boleyn,—and that the life of Sir Thomas More would not have been spared even if the young queen had not interposed her ill offices. The victim of the King's cruelty and injustice knew all along how ticklishly his head stood upon his shoulders,—and from the moment when Henry the Eighth walked with him in his garden, with his arm round his neck, More declared, over and over again, that his life depended only on the monarch's caprice. He was an honest and staunch Roman Catholic, who denied the spiritual supremacy of the King, and died for it; but a very little time elapsed before the courtier who was mainly concerned in bringing More to the block, and who himself was very willing to admit the King's spiritual supremacy, or any other acceptable doctrine, had to share his fate. They both suffered from the brutal tyranny of Henry's nature,—not from the malicious intervention of women whose names have been somewhat unfairly mixed up with the flagitious history of those times.

Erasmus is prominently introduced in about

the first half of the volume; but although he is represented as a very amiable man, he does not cut a very advantageous figure,—and all that his biographers inform us respecting his inclination to Protestantism is either quietly dropped or perhaps intentionally kept in the background. We do not imagine that such was the deliberate design of the writer; but the effect of the book certainly is to make readers well satisfied with Popery, and admire Sir Thomas More for his conscientious adherence to it. Now, if there be any truth in the relations that have come down to us, Erasmus, while in England, was opposed to the doctrine of transubstantiation,—and the following proof has been given of the fact. More lent Erasmus a horse, which the latter did not return; and when he was asked for it, he sent the following Latin verses, jeering More upon his belief in the real presence:—

Mihi serpe dixisti
De corpore Christi,
Credo quod edas et edes:
Sic tibi rescibo
De tuo palfrido,
Credo quod habes et habes.

—We dare say that this anecdote is quite as true as some others of a different description, inserted in the 'Household of Sir Thomas More.'

We can give the book unqualified praise for the pleasant, and tolerably accurate, pictures which it affords of the domestic manners of the period;—and the characters of some of the personages represented are drawn with distinctness, and with the features of nature.

Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Rattlesnake, &c. By John Macgillivray, F.R.G.S. 2 vols.

[Second Notice.]

THE barque Tam o' Shanter—containing Mr. Kennedy and the twelve companions of his exploring Expedition—left Sydney in company with the Rattlesnake on the 29th of April 1848. From the notes of Mr. Carron, the botanist of the party, which, as was stated in our former notice, are appended to Mr. Macgillivray's narrative, we derive the following melancholy story. The general result and some of the details of this ill-timed and ill-fated Expedition are already known to our readers; but for the sake of a connected narrative we return, as we promised, to this volume.

There appears to have been no want of foresight in providing for the material wants of the Expedition during what its leader conceived would prove a short journey.—

"Our live stock consisted of twenty-eight horses, one hundred sheep, three kangaroo dogs, and one sheep dog. Our dry provisions comprised one ton of flour, ninety pounds of tea, and six hundred pounds of sugar. Besides these necessary supplies for subsistence on the road, we took with us twenty-four pack-saddles, one heavy square cart, two spring carts, with harness for nine horses, four tents, a canvas sheepfold, twenty-two pounds gunpowder, one hundred and thirty pounds shot, a quarter cask of ammunition, twenty-eight tether ropes (each twenty-one yards long), forty hobble chains and straps, together with boxes, paper, &c., for preserving specimens, fire-arms, cloaks, blankets, tomahawks, and other minor requisites for such an expedition, not forgetting a supply of fish-hooks and other small articles, as presents for the natives."

It was a voyage of twenty-two days from Sydney to Rockingham Bay. Here, as our readers know, the party was to disembark and commence its land journey. It proved not easy to land the horses,—one of which was drowned. Aboriginal inhabitants presented themselves "with green boughs in their hands, which they displayed as emblems of peace."—Subsequently they offered no molestation to Mr. Kennedy's encampment when it was formed.

The weather was inclement—very wet and cold—on the 26th of May.—

"On the 30th, Mr. Kennedy and three others of the party rode out to examine the surrounding country, and to determine in what direction the expedition should start, the remainder staying at the camp, busily occupied with preparations for our departure into the wilderness. * * On the 3rd of June, Mr. Kennedy and his party returned to the camp, with the intelligence that it was impossible to proceed in a north or north-westerly direction, in consequence of the swamps. Mr. Kennedy had penetrated them in some places, where the scrub was not too thick, but could not get through them in any place, on account of the water, and the dense scrub. He informed us that he found we should be obliged to cross a river on the beach to the south-west of the camp before we could hope to make any progress. The two following days were occupied with completing our arrangements for starting; as it was determined on the following morning to strike our tents and proceed at once on our expedition."

On the 6th of June, such officers of the Rattlesnake as had assisted to speed the exploring party on its outset left them; and the journey into the wilderness began,—not very auspiciously. The travellers were checked by swamps, which prevented them at once going inland, and compelled them to return to the beach. Arrived there, they were barred by a river, to cross which with their carts and stores occupied two days. Three miles further (after a second attempt made by Mr. Kennedy to find a practicable track for the carts) the same obstacle presented itself. Hereabouts, they—

"came upon a native encampment, consisting of eighteen or twenty huts of an oval form, about seven feet long, and four feet high; and at the southern end of the camp was one large hut eighteen feet long, seven feet wide, and fourteen feet high. All of them were neatly and strongly built with small saplings, stuck in the ground, arched over, and tied together at the top with small shoots of the climbing palm which I have already described. They were covered with the bark of the large *Melaleuca* which grow in the swamps, fastened to the saplings with palm shoots. A small opening is left at one end, from the ground to the top, and the floors were covered with long dried grass. The natives being absent from the camp, I entered the large *gunyah*, and found in it a great shield of solid wood, two feet in diameter, convex on one side and flat on the other. The convex side was curiously painted red, in circular rings and crosses. On the flat side was a handle, cut out of the solid wood. In the same hut I found four wooden swords, three and a half feet long and four inches broad, sharp at both edges and thick in the centre, with a slightly-curved, round handle, about six inches long. They were made of very hard wood, and were much too heavy to wield with one hand. I also found a number of fishing lines, made from grass, with hooks attached of various sizes, made from mussel shells. * * In the centre of the camp were four large ovens, for cooking their food. These ovens were constructed by digging a hole in the ground, about three feet in diameter, and two feet deep. The hole is then filled to within six inches of the top with smooth, hard, loose stones, on which a fire is kindled, and kept burning till the stones are well heated. Their food, consisting principally of shell and other fish, is then placed on the stones and baked."

On the 13th of June, one of Mr. Kennedy's men absconded. Two days were employed in search of him:—which search seems to have been hardly worth the time and pains, since Mr. Macgillivray adds, "that he was of very little service, being little better than an idiot." The 16th and six following days were spent in new but vain attempts to force a way through the swamps "to the foot of the mountain ranges on the south." Whether entire concord existed among the party—early fretted doubtless by delays and difficulties so vexatious—may be doubted from the following extract.—

"Mr. Kennedy appeared to be, in every respect,

admirably fitted for the leader of an expedition of this character. Although he had innumerable difficulties and hardships to contend with, he always appeared cheerful, and in good spirits. In travelling through such a country as we were in, such a disposition was essential to the success of the expedition. He was always diverting the minds of his followers from the obstacles we daily encountered, and encouraging them to hope for better success; careful in all his observations and calculations, as to the position of his camp, and cautious not to plunge into difficulties without personal observation of the country, to enable him to take the safest path. But having decided, he pursued his deliberate determination with steady perseverance, sharing in the labour of cutting through the scrub, and all the harassment attendant on travelling through such a wilderness, with as much (or greater) alacrity and zeal as any of his followers. It was often grievous to me to hear some of the party observe, after we had passed over some difficult tract, 'that a better road might have been found a little to the right or to the left.' Such observations were the more unjust and vexatious, as in all matters of difficulty and opinion he would invariably listen to the advice of all, and if he thought it prudent, take it."

On the 26th of June,—on crossing yet another river, the carts were set fast in the mud. In this emergency, the natives seem to have shown themselves efficient and obliging.—

"They pointed out to us the best place to cross the river. Some of them also assisted us in carrying our things across, while one or two attempted petty thefts. I caught one with two straps belonging to a saddle, and a pair of Mr. Kennedy's spurs in his basket, which I took from him, and sent him away. Many of these natives were painted all over with a sort of red earth, but none of them had visited us armed with spears for several days past."

The party now turned inland,—by way of beginning, cutting their way through a belt of mangrove scrub, about half a mile wide. Sickness among the men, in the form of ague, appeared, to delay their progress. The horses and sheep, too, began to sicken and "fall off." As they advanced into the heart of the wilderness, the temper of the natives became worse. On the 4th of July—

"Mr. Kennedy and three others roamed to some distance from the camp, when they were followed by a tribe of natives, making threatening demonstrations, and armed with spears; one spear was actually thrown, when Mr. Kennedy, fearing for the safety of his party, ordered his men to fire upon them; four of the natives fell, but Mr. Kennedy could not ascertain whether more than one was killed, as the other three were immediately carried off into the scrub."

On the 16th of July,—dispirited, it would seem by the difficulties of getting the carts along, Mr. Kennedy determined to leave them and pursue his journey on horseback. On the 24th, Mr. Carron enters in his journal the shooting of one of the horses which had fallen lame.—

"During the week (he adds) we had made very little progress, being forced to turn in every direction to avoid the deep gulleys and the scrub which invariably prevailed in the bends of the creeks."

Again,—

"After skirting the river about three miles, we crossed it in a shallow place, the bed of it being composed of blocks of water-worn granite. The impediment offered by these blocks rendered it very difficult for our horses to pass, although the water was only from one to three feet deep. Several of the horses fell in crossing this river; the one carrying my specimens fell three times, and my specimens and needs received much damage, if they were not entirely spoiled."

Another horse, on the 28th, died of a fall down the hill upon a ledge of hard rock:—for the party had now cut and forded its way through "to the foot of the range." From this point, difficulties and disasters accumulated. More grievous, however, than the inhospitable wild-

ness of the country, and the rapid exhaustion of the beasts of burden, is it to read of fraud and speculation among the little band of discoverers.

—By the middle of August, we find Mr. Carron entering in his journal their first breakfast on horseflesh:—since it had been decided as expedient "to make our horses when too weak to travel, available for food." By the middle of September matters had become yet worse.—

"Sept. 16. This morning after breakfast, Mitchell and myself took two horses and re-crossed the river. We went about two miles back to a spot where I had seen some *Portulaca*, intending to bring some of it back to the camp to boil as a vegetable, it being the only description of food of the kind that we had been able to obtain throughout our journey. We filled a bag with it, and returned to the camp, when I found half a damper, one meal's bread, had been stolen from the stores during my absence. This was not the first theft of the kind that had been committed, and it was found necessary to watch the provisions night and day. Mr. Kennedy was anxious to discover the thief in this instance, as it was stolen in open daylight while Mr. Kennedy himself was keeping a look-out in his tent, not twenty yards from where the provisions were stolen; every man's load was searched, but in vain, and Mr. Kennedy, knowing that a party left the camp for the purpose of fishing a short distance up the river, and another party a few yards down the river to wash some clothes—took Jackey with him, who, by detecting some crumbs on the ground, discovered that the damper had been eaten at the place where the clothes were washed. So careless were some of the party of the fatal consequences of our provisions being consumed before we arrived at Cape York, that as soon as we camped and the horses were unpacked, it was necessary that all the provisions should be deposited together on a tarpaulin, and that I should be near them by day and by night, so that I could not leave the camp at all, unless Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Wall undertook to watch the stores. I was obliged to watch the food whilst cooking; it was taken out of the boiler in the presence of myself and two or three others, and placed in the stores till morning. It was seldom that I could go to bed before nine or ten o'clock at night, and I had to be up at four in the morning to see our tea made and sweetened, and our breakfast served out by daylight. The meals we cut up into thirteen parts, as nearly equal as possible, and one person touched each part in succession, whilst another person, with his back turned, called out the names of the party, the person named taking the part touched. The scrupulous exactness we were obliged to practise with respect to our provisions was increased by our misfortune in getting next to nothing to assist our scanty ration; while the extreme labour to which we were subjected increased our appetites. Two of the party always went out at daylight to fetch the horses in, and it was necessary we should start at early morning on account of the great heat in the middle of the day. We always endeavoured to make a fair stage by ten o'clock, and then, if in a convenient place, to halt: sometimes we were obliged to halt at nine o'clock, but we started again generally about three or four o'clock p.m., and travelled on till six."

Thus the party continued worming their way painfully along for another six weeks, till on the 10th of November—

"Mr. Kennedy finding from the weak state of some of the men, that it would be impossible for us to reach Cape York before our provisions were exhausted, resolved to form an advance party, consisting of himself, Jackey, Costigan, Luff, and Dunn. We had but nine horses left, of which number it was proposed that they should take seven, and proceed to Cape York as quickly as possible, to obtain provisions for the rest of the party from the vessel waiting with supplies for our homeward journey."

On the 13th, Mr. Kennedy set out:—leaving Mr. Carron in charge of the camp of enfeebled men. Nothing, surely, can be much more tragical than the following extracts.—

"Nov. 14th. We killed the smallest horse early this morning, and had all the meat cut up and on the stage to dry by nine o'clock. I made the blood,

heart, liver, kidneys and tripe last us three days, as they would not keep longer, and we mixed our allowance of flour with them. We had no salt to season them with, as all our salt was required to put in the blood to prevent its turning sour. The heat during this day was very great, the thermometer at noon in the shade standing at 110°. Douglas was very weak. The natives came this afternoon, but did not stay long.—16th. The natives this day brought us a few small pieces of fish, but they were old and hardly eatable. I would not allow them to come near the camp, but made signs to them to sit down at a distance, and when they had done so, I went to them and distributed a few fish-hooks. Douglas died this morning, and we buried him at dusk when the natives were gone, and I read the funeral service over him. He was the first of our party we had lost, and his death, the sad precursor of so many more, cast an additional gloom over us.—18th. The natives came and brought some of their gins (women) with them. They would only allow one of us at a time to go near them. The women wore very neatly fringed girdles hanging loose over their loins, and shaded themselves with large fan-palm leaves. Their girdles were made of the leaves of the *Cordyline*. Both men and women were very stout, strong, well made people—some of the men standing six feet high. They brought us some fish, which they called 'mingii'; but it was such as they would not even eat themselves; also a kind of paste, made of different kinds of leaves and roots, mixed with the inside of the roasted mangrove seeds, all pounded up together, then heated over a fire in a large shell. This paste they call 'dakai'. Although we did not much like the taste of the paste, and it was very full of sand, we ate some of it as a vegetable.—19th. This morning about fifty or sixty natives, all strongly armed with spears, made their appearance, and by their gestures and manner it was quite evident that they intended to attack us if opportunity offered. As we always kept our fire-arms in readiness, we stood out in a line, with our guns in our hands. I made signs to them to keep back, but they pretended not to understand us, holding up pieces of fish, crying out *mingii, mingii*, (fish, fish), to induce us to come for them, but their designs upon us were too transparent for that. They kept us standing a good while, for I was anxious to refrain from firing on them if possible, and at length they left us without any actually hostile demonstration. Being Sunday, I read prayers to-day.—20th. Taylor died this morning, and we buried him in the evening, by the side of Douglas, and I read the funeral service over him.—21st. About sixty natives came to the camp this morning, well armed with spears, and pieces of fish, which they held up to us, to entice us to come to them. We took no notice, however, of their invitations, but preparing our fire-arms, we turned out. They were now closing round us in all directions, many of them with their spears in their throwing-sticks, ready for use—pointing them to their own necks and sides, and showing us by their postures how we should writhe with pain when they struck us. Then they would change their tactics, and again endeavour to persuade us they meant us no harm, but they would not lay down their spears. Some of them seemed inclined to go away, but others appeared determined to attack us. After keeping us standing about an hour, eleven spears were thrown at us. Three of my party then fired, slightly wounding one of them, when they all immediately ran away as fast as they could. Some of them, however, kept hovering in sight for some time after. Three of the spears that were thrown fell short of us, the rest passing very close, but fortunately no one was hurt; the three spears which passed us were barbed with bone, and were very heavy.—26th. Carpenter died this morning; the poor fellow did not suffer acutely on the approach of death, but the animal energies were destroyed, and they withered away one after another without pain or struggle. At eleven o'clock, being Sunday, I read prayers, and in the evening we buried our late companion in the bed of the creek, and I read the funeral service over him. * * Dec. 1st. The wind was blowing strong from the south-east this morning. On going up the hill in the afternoon I saw a schooner from the northward beating to the southward. I supposed her to be the *Bramble*, as it was about the time Mr. Kennedy had given me

expectation of being relieved by water, and I afterwards found I was right in this supposition. I naturally concluded she had come for us; and full of hope and joy I immediately hoisted a flag on a staff we had previously erected on a part of the hill where it could be seen from any part of the bay. We placed a ball above the flag to put the crew on their guard against the natives. We then collected a quantity of wood, and at dusk lighted a fire, and kept it burning till about half-past seven or eight o'clock. I then fired off three rockets one after the other, at intervals of about twenty minutes. I also took a large pistol up the hill, and stood for some time firing it as quickly as I could load it, thinking they might perhaps see the flash of that, if they had not seen the rockets.

—2nd. Early this morning I was up, straining my eyes to catch a view of the bay, and at length saw the schooner standing into the shore, and during the forenoon a boat was lowered. I now made quite certain they were coming for us, and thinking they might come up the creek in the boat for some distance, I hastened down the hill, and began to pack up a few things, determined to keep them waiting for our luggage no longer than I could help. I looked anxiously for them all the afternoon, wondering much at their delay in coming, until at last I went up the hill, just in time to see the schooner passing the bay. I cannot describe the feeling of despair and desolation which I in common with the rest of our party experienced as we gazed on the vessel as she fast faded from our view."

On the 28th of December, two more of the men died. The survivors had grown too weak to make "the smallest hole in the ground as a grave."

"After great exertion [continues Mr. Carron] we succeeded in removing the bodies to a small patch of phyllanthus scrub, about four feet high, and eighty yards from the tent. We then laid them side by side, and covered them with a few small branches, and this was all the burial we were enabled to give them. * * Dec. 29th. The six weeks having expired, which Mr. Kennedy had led me to expect would be the longest period we should have to wait, I now began to fear the rainy season had set in, and filled the creeks to the northward, so that his party had been unable to cross them, or that some untoward accident had happened, which prevented us being relieved. I did not quite despair, but I knew that we could not live long. Our shot was almost consumed, not having more than eight or ten charges left, and although we had plenty of ball, we were too weak to attempt to form any plan to make shot. Our sole remaining companion, the sheep dog, I intended to kill in a day or two, but he would not last long, as he was nothing but skin and bone.—30th. Early this morning we ate the two pigeons left yesterday, and boiled each a quart of tea, from the leaves we had left; but we had not had any fresh tea to put into the pot for some time. Goddard then went into the bush, to try to get another pigeon or two, and if the natives made their appearance, I was to fire a pistol to recall him to the camp. After he had been gone, I saw natives coming toward the camp, and I immediately fired a pistol; but before Goddard could return they came into the camp, and handed me a piece of paper, very much dirtied and torn. I was sure, from the first, by their manner, that there was a vessel in the bay. The paper was a note to me from Capt. Dobson, of the schooner Ariel, but it was so dirtied and torn that I could only read part of it. For a minute or two I was almost senseless with the joy which the hope of our deliverance inspired. I made the natives a few presents, and gave them a note to Capt. Dobson, which I made them easily understand I wanted them to take to that gentleman. I was in hopes they would then have gone, but I soon found they had other intentions. A great many natives were coming from all quarters well armed with spears. I had given a shirt to the one who had brought the note, and put it on him; but I saw him throw down the note and pull off the shirt, and picking up his spear he joined the rest, who were preparing to attack us. We were expecting every moment to be attacked and murdered by these savages, our newly awakened hope already beginning to fail, when we saw Capt. Dobson and Dr. Vallack,

accompanied by Jackey and a man named Barrett, (who had been wounded a few days before in the arm by a barbed spear,) approaching towards us, across the creek. I and my companion, who was preserved with me, must ever be grateful for the prompt courage with which these persons, at the risk of their own lives, came to our assistance, through the scrub and mangroves, a distance of about three miles, surrounded as they were all the way by a large number of armed natives. I was reduced almost to a skeleton. The elbow bone of my right arm was through the skin, as also the bone of my right hip. My legs also were swollen to an enormous size. Goddard walked to the boat, but I could not do so without the assistance of Capt. Dobson and Dr. Vallack, and I had to be carried altogether a part of the distance. The others, Jackey and Barrett, kept a look out for the blacks. We were unable to bring many things from the camp. The principal were, the fire-arms and one parcel of my seeds, which I managed to keep dry, containing eighty-seven species. All my specimens were left behind, which I regretted very much: for though much injured, the collection contained specimens of very beautiful trees, shrubs, and orchideæ. I could also only secure an abstract of my journal, except that portion of it from 13th November to 30th December, which I have in full. My original journal, with a botanical work which had been kindly lent me by a friend in Sydney for the expedition, was left behind. We got safely on board the Ariel; and after a very long passage arrived in Sydney."

The above is but an imperfect sketch of the sufferings of these pioneers in the wilderness. The article in the appendix, immediately following Mr. Carron's narrative, is Jackey Jackey's statement of the yet more mournful fate which befell Mr. Kennedy, which we have already laid before our readers. It will be recollected that this discoverer died in the wilderness of spear wounds inflicted by the unfriendly savages, and was buried where he fell by his most faithful native attendant, who made his way to the Ariel, then lying off Cape York—there to recount the disastrous issue of the exploring Expedition. We repeat, that matter of more painful and melancholy interest has not in our time been laid before the public.

Contributions to the History of Insurance: with a Restoration of the Grand-Pensionary De Wit's Treatise on Life Annuities. By Frederick Hendriks, Esq. Privately Printed.

It has been always known that not long before his death—in August, 1672—John De Wit prepared, for the information of the States-General of Holland, a paper, or treatise, on life annuities in connexion with a financial scheme which they had then in contemplation. It has been also known that this work of De Wit was probably in fullness and importance one of the earliest—if not the earliest—treatises on the question of life annuities published in Europe. The work itself, however, by a singular combination of accidents, has been hitherto lost to the world. There is every reason to believe that the treatise was actually printed for distribution to the several members of the States-General either immediately before or immediately after its presentation on the 30th of July, 1671, to that body. Yet, so effectually were the copies suppressed, or so cogent were the reasons which prevailed among the leading men in Holland for withdrawing themselves from all connexion with De Wit's project, that when Leibnitz visited Holland in 1676 he was unable to obtain more than a very imperfect hearsay account of the tenor of the Grand-Pensionary's paper. The same uncertainty has prevailed ever since. Nearly every writer on the history of assurances and annuities has alluded to the labours of De Wit; but no one has been able to produce the work which it was felt on all hands marked a distinct era in

the progress of that peculiar branch of applied mathematics.

Mr. Hendriks has had the good fortune to supply the desideratum. By the aid of an intelligent correspondent in Holland Mr. Hendriks has been enabled to recover the hitherto lost work, which it appears was printed in its original Dutch in the Resolutions of the august body to which it was addressed. Mr. Hendriks, however, may with advantage be allowed to give his own narrative of the recovery of this curious and valuable literary and scientific fragment.—

"I had for some time been desirous of endeavouring to clear away the veil under which the work in question had been concealed. After fruitless attempts to attain this object here, it occurred as a matter of conjecture, that the treatise, not included in such collections of De Wit's works as could be referred to, was, in all likelihood, written by him for some government purpose, and consequently might be in the State archives of Holland either in a manuscript or printed form. Supplying an esteemed correspondent with some collateral details in support of that view, researches were, through his aid, made at Amsterdam and the Hague. At length conjecture was justified by the ascertained fact of De Wit's 'Treatise on Annuities' having been inserted in the 'Resolutions of the States of Holland and West Friesland' of the year 1671; and, being furnished with a transcript of the original in Dutch, and with the more immediate assistance of a French version, the difficulty was at an end. With respect to the causes or effects on which depended the loss (if it may be so termed) of the document, and which has endured so many years, I can only suggest the following:—that the paper, on being distributed to the members of the States-General, did not, in the peculiar pressure of affairs, get any public attention, or that it was wilfully suppressed. On no supposition is it easy to account for what is recorded of Leibnitz having in vain used endeavours to obtain it. No person ought to have been better able to procure its inspection than Leibnitz. When he visited Holland about the year 1676, his own writings record, not only that he had interviews with Huygens, but, as it happened, with the Burgomaster Hudde, the very man who employed himself on these subjects (as Leibnitz knew), and who certified at De Wit's request the computations in the latter's report on life annuities. Whether Hudde had his incentives for not further divulging De Wit's views, it is perhaps out of the question to surmise; but there is fairer ground for imagining that there were State reasons for their suppression. The brothers Cornelius and John De Wit met their melancholy death on the 20th of August, 1672. At the very time when Cornelius was in prison, when John De Wit was bowed down under the load of a cruel oppression, the States of Holland were becoming involved in fresh imperative necessities for the raising of funds to carry on immense naval operations against England and military defences against the beleaguering forces of France. Money had to be raised at the utmost sacrifice. The States might have been fully impressed with the truth of the theory of annuities presented in De Wit's Report, and perfectly ready to avail themselves of the calculations he was at the pains of making; but at the same time they must on deliberation have perceived the impracticability of negotiating funds by this means at the low rate of interest there exemplified. The fundholder in perpetual rents or ordinary stocks might have been content with a lower rate of interest, as the basis of terms, than the annuitant. The former would reason—'The Government may fall into difficulties, and might not pay me interest during my lifetime, but it may be different afterwards; the tide of affairs will turn, and my successors thus regain the advantage.' Not so with the life annuitant; his loss in such a case would have been either nearly or quite complete; and in times of extreme low credit we may take the investment to have been a speculative one which called for the otherwise extravagant terms that were offered. The circumstances quoted by Adam Smith with regard to the practice in this country in the reign of William the Third can be cited as an instance in point; for although the English Government held out the inducement of 14 per cent. at any age by

way of life annuity, the public were very loth to embark their money in what would, in fact, have been a fortune to them, and held such views of the instability of the times that these terms procured but few purchasers. Similar reasons very satisfactorily account for the graduated scale of life annuities which the Dutch authorities published at Amsterdam in July 1672 (only a few days before De Wit's death), and which offered from 10 to 11 per cent., at ages where he had computed that 63 would be the maximum rate at 4 per cent. The new scale it is very likely was calculated by Hudde, following out De Wit's method, for each age, and reckoning a higher rate of interest; and these calculations may have been those which are described as having been kept from publication by Hudde. The States-General, then, can be easily imagined to have been desirous of giving no publicity to De Wit's researches; as, among other effects, the difference in the increased rates would have led to unpleasant remarks from the financial economists of the day. Besides this, the capitalists being the gainers, were slow to disabuse the Government of its continuance in error; and the terms seem to have been adhered to with a very slight amendment, and not, in fact, to have been criticized until the exact rate of mortality experienced upon the lives to whom the States had granted annuities was made the subject of minute investigation by writers of the succeeding century."

Mr. Hendriks has given in the work before us a full English translation of De Wit's paper. It extends to seventeen octavo pages, not very closely printed; and, bearing in mind the period at which it was written, it is certainly a most able and extraordinary composition. It cannot be said that the Dutch statesman anticipated Halley in his discovery of the true method of forming tables of mortality,—but we must not deprive De Wit of the honour of having distinctly described in 1671 at least a method by which life annuities might be calculated with some approach to accuracy. We quite concur in the following comments by Mr. Hendriks.—

"No one with a candid and unbiassed opinion would in the present day attempt to deny that Dr. Halley was the discoverer and scientific arranger of what are termed life tables, in the full and highly important modern acceptance of the term, and that in his paper ('An Estimate of the Degrees of the Mortality of Mankind,' &c.) he taught the world the best initiatory and theoretical form for the computation of life annuities and of survivorships from and to given ages. The reader being now enabled to form an idea of what De Wit's treatise really is, it will be equally incumbent on him to admit that the Dutch statesman, twenty-eight years before our countryman, the Astronomer Royal Halley, presented to notice at least a method by which the value of life annuities could be accurately calculated, different from and inferior in convenience to the perfectly independent solution of the latter, but in nowise less applicable as a method of operation in such valuations, and, if needed, a basis for insurance estimates; though, unlike Halley's, it was not available for the different other forms of life contingencies, or for the purposes of the statistician and political economist, to which that can always be applied, and which would have been sufficient to establish Dr. Halley's fame had it not been already gained by his brilliant discoveries in the spangled vault of heaven. Neither does the removal of De Wit stand in need of adornment, but historic justice should not be neglected even in the smallest particular; and, keeping that in view, we ought to avail ourselves of every occasion which can further or maintain it."

We may also extract with advantage the following further passage from the work before us, as usefully illustrating the state of the questions connected with the doctrine of chances and of mortality in the age in which De Wit wrote.—

"We must retrace our steps to the seventeenth century. At that period, commercial pre-eminence had passed from the Southern nations of Europe to England and Holland. In the theory and practice of commerce and its institutions, France was under a disadvantage. The Faculty of Theology had power enough to prevent a minister of state establishing a

bank; and in many other ways such adverse influence was used to a marked extent, and with important results. But all this led the van in the promotion of increased energy in other nations less trammelled by the oppressive force of dogmatic opinion; and a Frenchman, the great Pascal, not only cleared away many clouds of pseudo-philosophic obscurity, but established the first principles of that doctrine of chances, which was as necessary in the laying of any foundation of the theory of vital statistics, and its application to the calculation of life contingencies, as to the other greater sciences to which it has since been applied in its advanced perfection. Pascal, in his Provincial Letters, completely annihilated the traditional definitions which the Jesuits were too willing to attach to the term probability, as suiting their own purposes; but it was in his mathematical correspondence that the true germs of scientific inquiry on the subject were embodied. Some questions put to Pascal by an ingenious man, the Chevalier de Méré, respecting the relative chances in certain conditions of games of hazard, led to his devoting his attention to sketching the groundwork of the science, in solving the cases proposed. This took place in 1654; but the letters to Fermat, in which the results were communicated, did not appear in print till 1679. The Continental mathematicians were, however, informed of what was going on, long before the latter date. In Holland, the celebrated Christian Huygens wrote a treatise in Dutch, extending the circuit of Pascal's inquiries. The treatise was translated into Latin by Francis Schooten, who inserted it at the end of his Mathematical Exercises, printed at Leyden in 1657. These labours were quite sufficient to point out the fundamental proposition, that the probability of any event happening (or not happening) might be expressed by the ratio of the number of chances for its happening (or not happening, as the case may be,) to the total number of the chances for its happening and for its not happening. With the help of this discovery, and of some experimental observations of facts on the average duration of life among persons to whom the States of Holland had previously and occasionally granted annuities, the Prime Minister, John de Wit, prepared a report and treatise on the terms of such transactions. On the 25th of April, 1671, it was resolved by the States General to negotiate funds by life annuities. On the 30th of July, 1671, the resolution was affirmed; and on the same day, De Wit's Report was, at the request of several members, distributed to them. In presenting the reader with a restoration of the import of this treatise, I have appended a few notes where it seemed advisable, and, in all respects, the Grand-Pensionary's own arrangement is preserved. On the importance of the original document—on the accounts respecting it by various authors—and on its having remained as good as lost for now one hundred and eighty years—it will be my duty to speak in the subsequent part of this paper. Here I need only observe, that in its perusal the reader must particularly hold in recollection that it is entitled to be considered as the first known production of any age treating in a formal manner on the valuation of life annuities. The careful anxious explanation entered upon by De Wit respecting every step of the process by which he arrived at his conclusions cannot fail to be worthy of notice, even apart from the practical importance and peculiar history of the treatise, and the interest attaching to it from the deservedly honoured memory of its author."

The whole of Mr. Hendriks's book is very curious,—and as containing the hitherto lost text of De Wit's treatise highly valuable. Mr. Hendriks conceives that there is ample evidence to justify a belief in the extreme antiquity of the practice of insurance against various kinds of risks, especially against losses by sea. He argues the question with learning, ability and temper,—and on the whole we are disposed to agree with him. We have rarely met with any book which more faithfully corresponded with its title:—for Mr. Hendriks has in the most emphatic sense made a "Contribution" of great importance towards the elucidation of the science in which he is interested.

Perseus and his Philosophies. Saunders & Otley.

In no sense of the word commonplace,—the story of Perseus and his philosophical speculations is yet an extremely vague, inchoate, and unsatisfactory work. As a tale its interest is weak and slender; as an analysis of mind—a theory of thought—it lacks order, sequence, and at times intelligibility. As a satire on living men and existing abuses its pretensions are not of a high class. Yet, it possesses elements which will recommend it to certain readers. Dreamy and mystical in conception,—crude, abrupt and illogical in execution, the story nevertheless exhibits the operations of an independent mind,—and intellectual analysts may find food for new reflections in many of its chapters.

The so-called "philosophies" of Perseus seem to concern themselves chiefly with the war which the author supposes to be generally raging between Instinct and Knowledge. The following aphoristic account of these two elements will show in what relation Perseus regards them as standing towards each other.—

"Each act, inspired by passion or instinct, bears the stamp of mind and reason acting on the broadest principle, and for all time. Each act, inspired by reason and prudence, bears stamp of wisdom acting for a time only. All instinct is logical, and preaches an everlasting wisdom. Thus, love would gain thy whole love in return; it maketh no calculation for time or circumstance; it will rush through flame for thee; it reckoneth upon an eternal sympathy. Generosity and gratitude also seek the endurable and the future, throwing all at thy feet, dreaming of no present good, but of a returning love which is to last for ever. Hatred, anger, revenge, deal with eternal principles. 'Thou hast done this oppressive act,' say they, 'and thou shalt carry a brand on thy forehead in remembrance, lest thou forget, and do the same in after years.' Passion is endurable wisdom: reason is but expediency. These fat and sleek lovers of to-day who affect to scorn the rugged justice of instinct! Did God give man a throbbing heart and a prone desire for nought? Reason is ephemeral. Passion tends to the ultimate and the permanent. They are both mind, but mind under different manifestations: one is a predisposition, the other is acquired. Wisdom is a nice calculation of the benefits of to-day and to-morrow, and passes not without its reward."

In this strain, half rhapsody half dogmatism, the entire book is written. Here is another passage, with the same thought—whether pure gold or base alloy—lying in it, but also tinged, as the reader will see, with the hues of a poetical fancy.—

"The true being, called man—he whose eye sweeps through all knowledge, whose heart beats with all nature—will never appear consistent. A great mind and a large heart are antagonists. He has no faculty stunted or overgrown, like your consistent persons; but sees as a god, and feels as a man. Now he entertains some grand thought, which would require all his energies to carry out; now he lavishly throws away those energies to the first person craving them. This appears very undecided conduct, and very absurd. In one night nature showers down upon mortals sleep so calm, so divine, and dreams so fair, that existence seems a luxury; and the next night she sends madness and fever, that torture the frame more than the boot or the rack. To-day the sun is on the fields, and all created life is steeped in lazy joy; to-morrow a whirlwind sweeps down from the hills, tearing up trees of a thousand years' growth. Is there any inconsistency here? And is not man also 'the work of His hands'? There is no actual inconsistency, nor any actual bad or good, vice or virtue. These are partial terms, and quite proper, so far as they go, to explain partial acts; but our vocabulary must be more copious when we deal with the universal and the absolute. When I think thus—when I see thus the mockery of our ideas and notions of men and nature—I almost think I will never care again about any act, and never regret it, but abandon myself with kingly humour to whatever the spirit prompts, and simply obey the laws of my

being, and labour to-day, and be idle to-morrow, as it happens. But here again comes the stubborn question,—What law shall I obey! which of the twin? for they both speak—so that I am still in doubt. I loved the new resolve when I made it; but now I am cold and dull, unable to carry it out. Irresolution tears me, convulses and stupifies all my frame; and ever thus goes on the eternal contest between our present and our distant good. A full man would realize both; a partial man contents himself with one. Intellect looks forward, seeing palaces, and possessions, and fame, which time and labour can realize; but the heart would linger kindly—loving and beloved—reposing in slothful tranquillity among the sons and daughters of men. Most of us loiter on the road, till, stung with regrets, we rise up, bind on the sandals, and go a little farther. But again the Sirens sing, and we die on the highway."

We are not tempted to controvert the "philosophies" of Perseus—though we are far from subscribing to them—or to object in detail to his sarcasms on literature and politics as they are practised and professed in our day and generation. These latter have not sufficient point to make themselves felt; and satire without a sting is one of the things about which "neither gods nor men" trouble themselves. If, as we infer, 'Perseus and his Philosophies' be the production of an unworn mind, it is a work of some promise:—and the future efforts of its author will probably deserve and reward a larger share of critical notice.

JUNIUS.

The Quarterly Review. No. 179. Murray.

THE Junius of our contemporary, as we announced a fortnight since, is Thomas, the second Lord Lyttelton. We doubt not our readers shared in the surprise with which we heard of such a man being put forward on such a claim. Apart from all the logical or historical evidence in the case, the moral conditions of which to make a Junius had here been selected on a principle so outrageous as to introduce something like a novelty into the discussion. For ourselves, Thomas, Lord Lyttelton lived in our memories as one of the most idle, dissolute, and profligate men of a profligate age. We remembered to have seen his name employed to "point a moral;" himself ranked by Wraxall as one of a triumvirate, unmatched and unmatched, — Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, pre-eminent in the moral court of Charles the Second, — Philip, Duke of Wharton, immortalized by Pope, who flourished under George the First—and Thomas, Lord Lyttelton, who illustrated the early part of the reign of George the Third. Wraxall did Buckingham and Wharton injustice by this association:—for Thomas Lyttelton was the mere vulgar creature of the hour and of circumstances,—the common type of a common class; who, with all the advantages of birth and fortune, never rose even to the respectable disreputability of the Medmenham brotherhood,—but sank, as it were, by the instincts of his nature to be the companion of the very refuse of society. We, however, knew but little about him,—and others it now appears know little more. At the general election in 1768 his father got him returned for Bewdley. He sat as member for but a short time, the election being declared void;—and there was an end of Thomas Lyttelton until his father's death in 1773, when he entered the House of Lords—took a somewhat active but wayward part in politics—got a good sinecure place, of course—and spoke occasionally with a sort of recklessness, dashing facility and ability till within a few days of his death, produced most probably by his own hands in 1779, and in the thirty-fifth year of his age.

There is not much, it must be admitted, in this outline of life and character to suggest that

Thomas Lyttelton was the laborious and indefatigable Junius. But the less we know the more room for speculation and conjecture,—and if nothing were known, there is no possibility of contradicting anything that is said. It has sometimes struck us as strange that in all the rage for conjecture on this subject no one had ever hit on any one of those immortals—Jones, Smith, or Robinson as the writer. It may be well that the reader should keep this in mind—for it has an important bearing on the subject; though we must before we proceed to the evidence bestow a few words on some preliminary questions.

The edition of the Letters of Junius to which the writer in the *Quarterly* refers and on which he founds his argument, is that of 1814, now commonly known as the edition of Dr. Good and Mr. George Woodfall; and, on a rough estimate, about one half of his authorities of facts, or coincidences, or parallel passages, or whatever they ought to be called, are taken from the Miscellaneous Letters, therein first published. We long since showed on what insufficient authority many of those letters had been attributed to Junius,—that they could not all have been written by the same person,—that many of them rest their sole claim on a coincidence between the dates of publication and the dates affixed to one or other of the private letters to Sampson Woodfall,—that the dates to fifty-nine or sixty out of the sixty-three private letters were affixed conjecturally by the editors of the edition of 1814,—and, therefore, that the letters avowedly inserted on the authority of that coincidence had lost all claim whatever to be considered as letters by Junius. We have stated, we believe,—if not, we do now state,—that we know that in some instances the errors in the conjectural dates were discovered and admitted to be errors by the editors themselves. We know, indeed, a great many more curious facts relating to the selection of the Miscellaneous Letters,—how some got admission and why others were excluded;—but an incidental discussion was not, and is not, the proper place to enter into a full consideration of the subject. We have therefore been content hitherto to submit a few strong facts, just to put the unwary on their guard;—though, when as it were challenged, we may think it necessary hereafter to examine the question with deliberate care.

For the present, we shall rest content with referring to the past. Enough has been already adduced, in our opinion, to have called for some critical examination—some separation of the "may have been" from the "impossible"—before a writer should have founded an argument on these Miscellaneous Letters. But, as we had occasion not long since to observe, there is evidently a new school of historical literature coming forward:—we may call it, for distinction, the *Clairvoyant*. The writers see all things by intuition,—or if they inquire at all, they follow the old authority—pronounce judgment, but assign no reason. The process is wonderfully simple and must save a great deal of trouble,—but for our own part we have never yet been able to catch the trick of it; and though we admire the confidence of the performers, we gape, stare and wonder—but have no faith. We are not, for example, quite satisfied to see the hundred questions that puzzle and perplex us about the Miscellaneous Letters disposed of in a brief paragraph, in a note! where, after informing us that some persons object to the Letters of Atticus—others to other letters,—the writer observes—

"In opposition to all such purely fanciful conjectures, we have the express declaration of [George] Woodfall's editor, that in the collected letters are

included only those unacknowledged compositions of Junius 'which are indisputably genuine.' We have so much confidence in this declaration that we are disposed to maintain the perfect integrity of the text of the three-volume edition, and are unwilling to allow the alteration or omission of a single sentence there attributed to Junius."

—The writer's "confidence," it is easily and jauntily assumed, is to be admitted conclusive as to the authenticity of the letters!—yet such is our impenetrable dullness, that what was before impossible remains impossible still.

Another of the important *clairvoyant* discoveries of the *Quarterly* relates to some letters published 1780—2, and called 'Letters of Thomas, Lord Lyttelton.' These letters, as they are called, are simply ingenious "essays" on a variety of subjects and characters:—amongst them, is one, of some dozen or more pages, on "dressing the hair, wearing beards, and weaving periwigs." When they were written is left to conjecture, as no dates are given,—to whom addressed is equally unknown, as all names are avowedly suppressed. They resemble simple, natural, friendly letters about as much as letters would come from the moon or from the dead. Though all marking characteristics of time and place are wanting, there is, nevertheless, here and there an incidental reference which would enable us, we think, to show that they could not have been written, as is professed, by Thomas, Lord Lyttelton. No one ever offered such proof, because no one till now ever supposed them to be genuine. They were issued by a bookseller "J. Bew" who was an adept in this sort of manufacture; and who at the time was engaged in publishing other works of a like character:—'Letters of Yorick and Eliza,'—'Letters between two Lovers,'—'Letters of an Italian Nun and an English Gentleman.' Amongst these publications was 'The Royal Register,' professing to be sketches of the character of ministers, members of opposition, courtiers, and others, "by a person in the highest rank"—that is, by the King. The tone, style and temper of 'The Royal Register' and those of the 'Letters of Lyttelton,' so far as the different characters of the assumed writers would permit, much resemble each other. The course of publication was in each case the same. One volume of the Letters was issued by way of testing its success—so, one volume of the Register. In both instances success justified fresh issues;—but the Royal beat the Noble, and while the Letters stopped at the second volume, the Register went on to nine volumes. They concluded severally, not, as usual, with "Finis" or "The End," but, significantly, with "The end of the Second Volume"—"the end of the Ninth Volume";—a clear intimation that J. Bew and his scribe or scribes were prepared to go on so long as a remunerating demand should continue.

That these Lyttelton letters were forgeries was never, we repeat, so far as we know, doubted until now. Their authenticity was publicly denied by Lord Lyttelton's executors as soon as they appeared. Years since it was positively and publicly stated that they were written by Combe—best known in his old age as the author of Dr. Syntax's 'Tour'—and said to have been an acquaintance and associate of Lyttelton, which is probable, as both were educated at Eton and both were dissolute and improvident. Combe, however, who soon dissipated his small fortune—but not till he had won for himself the *sobriquet* of "Duke Combe"—lived for the remainder of his life as a booksellers' hack, and for twenty or more years in prison, where he died. Chalmers in his 'Biographical Dictionary,' speaking of these letters, in 1815, says—"Two volumes of Letters published in 1780

and 1782, though attributed to him [Lyttelton], are known to have been the production of an ingenious writer yet living." Watts in the 'Bibliotheca Britannica' re-echoes this. Lowndes in his 'Bibliographer's Manual' dismisses them thus briefly—"These letters are spurious." They are referred to as amongst Combe's writings in the memoirs of him which appeared at his death. Thomas Campbell in his 'Life of Mrs. Siddons' says incidentally, but unhesitatingly, that they were written by Combe. Sir G. Lefevre, in his 'Life of a Travelling Physician,' gives a clever sketch of Combe—whom he knew personally; and states positively, on the authority of Combe himself, that he was the writer:—"He was the author of Lord Lyttelton's Letters and the famous ghost story which once produced a sensation in the moral world. He considered it the best of his productions."

But whether the Letters were written by Combe—or of which there would seem to be no doubt—or by Lyttelton himself—or by some person unknown—there is internalevidence that the vast majority, if not all, were written after Junius had concluded his "great labours"—and when it is scarcely possible to find a young writer without traces of his manner. Nothing therefore could fairly be inferred from occasional similitude of phrase or expression. But no matter; these are minor questions. The authenticity of the Letters is the one important subject of inquiry; and certainly it was high time to correct the public judgment if, to this hour, everybody has been in error—the executors of Lyttelton, Chalmers, Watts, Lowndes, the Biographers, Thomas Campbell, Sir G. Lefevre, and Combe himself.—Here is the proof offered.—

"Shortly after his [Lyttelton's] decease a collection of letters was published with his name. The authenticity of these compositions was impugned by his executors, but without any reason assigned; and as it was impossible that they could be cognizant of all the letters he had ever written, we may suppose that their assertion was rather designed to prevent unpleasant discussion than founded on any certain knowledge. The publication was generally received as genuine at the time, and rapidly ran through a number of editions—a second volume being soon added to the first. These letters have since been attributed to the pen of William Combe, the well-known author of *Dr. Syntax*. That he gave them to the press—as he was, we believe, at one time known to Thomas Lyttelton—is likely enough; and it is probable also that he tampered with them in a very unwarrantable manner. Indeed we do not think it would be difficult to distinguish his buffoonish interpolations. But that the letters are substantially genuine we make no manner of doubt. It would lead us too far out of our way to establish at this point our assertion by particular proofs. Suffice it for the present to say that the general style and matter of the letters are far above any powers Combe ever possessed. Genius of the highest order frequently shines forth in them, and yet more they are marked by the struggles of a nature disturbed by its own evil passions—by a conflict between the elements of good and evil, raging in a mind of singular force and capacity, which an imitative or fictitious pen could hardly have portrayed. We pray therefore that we may be allowed to proceed on the supposition that these letters are genuine—as evidence that they are so will arise naturally as we go on."

So begins and so ends the proof! Here is the conclusive evidence which is to overthrow the facts and traditions of seventy years!—for as to what arises "naturally as we go on," it is a simple begging of the whole question. The evidence of style—"a thorough knowledge of the author's style," as Good calls it,— "coincidences of expression," "identity of character," and so forth, coupled with a "thorough" confidence in their own judgment,—have led some two or three dozen persons to prove to their own entire satisfaction that some two or

three dozen other persons were the writers of Junius's Letters. The writer in the *Quarterly* has added one more to the ridiculous number.

The proof then of the *Quarterly* that the letters of Lyttelton are genuine is of the same kind as that offered by the same authority to establish that the Miscellaneous Letters were written by Junius. It is after the established fashion of the *clairvoyant* school,—which begins and ends in having "no manner of doubt."

Still, if all these assumptions were allowed, the reader would yet desire to see brought a little nearer and made a little clearer the connexion between Thomas Lyttelton and Junius,—to know something of the "whereabouts" of Lyttelton from April 1767 to 1772; for, be it remembered, as the *Quarterly* assumes the authenticity of the Miscellaneous Letters, the first letter by their Junius appeared in April, 1767, and when the young profligate Thomas Lyttelton was just turned three and twenty. This "whereabouts" is a difficulty that we cannot very well help to solve,—nor do we get much light from the *Quarterly*;—but we have little doubt it could be settled by the Lyttelton family after half an hour's search. Meanwhile, we may observe that, after the fashion of his day, Thomas Lyttelton was sent to finish his education on the Continent; and from his father's letters we find that he had not returned in March 1765. From one letter written by the father to Governor Lyttelton we learn something of the preparatory training and disciplining of the young gentleman who was so soon to startle and astonish the world as Junius. In Mr. Phillimore's life of the father, George, Lord Lyttelton, we read as follows:—

"In his next letter [11th of March, 1765] to his brother, [George Lord] Lyttelton wishes him joy of the birth of a son, laments the dissipation, extravagance, and gaming of his son in Italy." (II. 664.)

We are told that he returned in the summer of that year (1765), and took part in a juvenile masque at Stowe. Here, however, we are again cast adrift:—"from this date," says the writer in the *Quarterly*, "we catch only occasional glimpses of Mr. Lyttelton." Very occasional, we may add; and other people, then as now,—creditors and bailiffs amongst them,—were not more successful. It was, indeed, generally supposed that he was driven, not only and frequently, as admitted, to change his residence, but to change his country,—and was to be found, if found at all, in the lowest haunts of dissipation. It is admitted by the writer in the *Quarterly*, that—

"For a period of three years after Mr. Lyttelton lost his seat—that period during which Junius wrote his acknowledged compositions—we hardly find a trace of him in any of the contemporary letters or memoirs that have fallen under our observation. * * We do not know on what terms Thomas Lyttelton stood with his family, while Junius was most actively engaged in correspondence with the *Public Advertiser*; but just as Junius concluded his 'great work,' Thomas Lyttelton returned to his father's house."

It appears, then, that from the summer of 1765 to February 1772, we know scarcely anything about Thomas Lyttelton. It is, therefore, a fair and legitimate inference, according to the logic of this *Quarterly* critic, that while his father and family believed him to be hunted by creditors and duns, and lost in the vilest haunts of dissipation,—sometimes in London, sometimes in Paris,—associated in either, as the Rev. Mr. Pennington tells us, "with the most profligate and abandoned of both sexes,"—he was labouring with zeal and diligence in the cause of his country, devoting nights and days, and for five years together, to exhausting labours and studies—and writing the Letters of Junius!

What incredible dullness in the father—in Chatham and Temple and Grenville, and all the

rest of the kith and kin—not to have discovered it—never for a moment to have suspected it. For ourselves, indeed, we rather incline to believe, from the total silence of Lyttelton himself and of all his relations and correspondents, that the young man's conduct was so bad, that in charity to his father they never mentioned him; and this opinion seems confirmed by their rejoicings on his return home in 1772. Chatham no sooner heard of it than he thus wrote to the father.—

"Feb. 16, 1772.

"The sincere satisfaction I feel, on what I hear of Mr. Lyttelton's return, with all the dispositions you could wish, will not allow me to be silent on so interesting an event. Accept, my dear Lord, my felicitations on these happy beginnings, together with every wish that this opening of light may ripen into the perfect day. I know what it is (thank God!) to be happy hitherto in my children; and I grieve for those who meet with essential disappointments in that vital part of domestic happiness. May you never again know anguish from such a wound to your comfort, but the remaining period of your days derive as much felicity from the return as you suffered pain from the deviation."

To this, the father replies:—

"I give you a thousand thanks for your very kind felicitations on the return of my son, who appears to be returned, not only to me, but to a rational way of thinking and a dutiful conduct, in which, if he perseveres, it will gild with some joy the evening of my life."

These anticipations, however, were all to be disappointed. The father, in the hope that marriage might reclaim his son, looked out for a proper match,—and a lady was selected. But the scapegrace who even in 1772 could do nothing like a rational being, though all parties were agreed, must needs, as the father says, "steal a march on the family,"—and get married. As might have been expected, within a few months he stole another "march on the family,"—deserted his wife, and bolted to the Continent;—whence he returned only on his father's death, in August, 1773. What influence, if any, the profligate folly of this profligate man had on that father may never be known; but we believe there is reference to it in the account of the father's death written by the physician who attended him.—"His Lordship's bilious and hepatic complaints seemed alone not equal to the expected mournful event; his long want of sleep, whether the consequence of the irritation in the bowels, or, which is more probable, of causes of a different kind, accounts for his loss of strength and for his death very sufficiently." On this melancholy occasion, Temple, the old friend and relation of the family, who would have hugged Junius to his heart and gloried in him,—thus wrote to the Junius of the *Quarterly*:—"You have an hereditary right not only to my affection, but to every real service it could be in my power to show you; the great figure you may yet make depends on yourself. Henry the Fifth, had been Prince of Wales; he knew how, with change of situation, to shake off the Falstaffs of the age, and all those forlorn accomplishments which had so long stifled and depressed his abilities. Forgive an old man, the hint he takes the liberty of giving, and be assured he ardently wishes to see what your Lordship calls his partiality justified by a conduct which will make him happy in calling himself, my dear Lord, your most affectionate and obedient servant."

The reader has now seen something—all that is known—of the training of this Junius of the *Quarterly* up to the summer of 1765,—and heard his father's report of it. He has read, also, the character given of him in, or to be inferred from, the letters of his father, of Chatham, and of Temple, at the close of the "great labours" of

Junius in 1772. Let us again remind him that to complete the argument of the *Quarterly*, he is required to believe that all the Miscellaneous Letters in the edition of 1814 were written by Junius, contrary to known and notorious facts; and that the 'Letters of Thomas, Lord Lyttelton' are genuine, contrary to the declarations of all who have referred to them, from the executors of Lord Lyttelton down to Mr. Combe, who acknowledged himself to be the writer. This premised, he will proceed "with what appetite he may" to the old, endless, profitless talk about style, coincidences, analogies, and so forth; and to arguments deduced from the somewhat notorious fact, that passages may be found in Speeches made between 1773 and 1779, reported by Mr. [Memory] Woodfall and others, after the free fashion of the day,—and in Letters written after 1773, no matter by whom:—which will remind him that Junius's Letters were published before either the letters were written or the speeches were spoken.

NEW NOVELS.

Allerton and Dreux; or, the War of Opinion.
By the Author of 'A Rhyming Chronicle.'
2 vols. Wertheim & Co.

'Allerton and Dreux' may be classed with the popular fictions edited by the Rev. Mr. Sewell: though the latter gentleman, we presume, would recoil from such an alliance,—seeing that the doctrine of his religious novels and the doctrine of this stand at the Antipodes one of the other. Our parallel is, nevertheless, warranted by the literary merit of the tales in question,—and by the somewhat painful elaboration of secret motives, changes of opinion, &c. &c., which seems a constant quality in these theological inventions—let them be devoted to High, Low, or *Slow Church*. There is little, however, in 'Allerton and Dreux' which could offend the most vehement of its antagonists; beyond the fact that the miscreant of the piece—a shabby, as distinguished from a sublime, villain—is an Anglo-Romanist curate, of the most closely-buttoned and formally orthodox pattern.—There is great delicacy in the opening of the story. The impression which the marriage of Mr. Raeburn and his subsequent domestic trials make on Marion, the heroine, is touched with great sweetness and gentle pathos:—and throughout the tale the latter remains the delightful and unaffected maid and woman promised by the simple-hearted and loving little child. Her brother, too, as a good mixture of frolic and common sense, claims a good word.—The characters of the clergymen who from rivals became fast friends, are nicely distinguished; and our author is to be commended for having exempted either from that impossible perfection or infallible wisdom against which, whatever be the dogma elect, we must always be recalcitrant. His instincts, we suspect, are more picturesque and poetical than controversial. He must have been, too, we fancy, a diligent reader of romances,—since he employs the old stock in trade of incidents and vicissitudes, with more ease than originality. An accident on horseback, a lost fortune, a chase of thieves and recovery of stolen property, are devices dear to Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. James, Mr. Grattan, and others,—though hardly consonant to the tone of a tale in purpose like this. Further, the story is spun out with ultratedium; though so much of grace, elegance, and purity—and here and there of that quiet humour without which amiability itself becomes insipid—are discernible as to warrant us in encouraging the author of the 'Rhyming Chronicle' to write again, without any intention of mixing up Church matters and Lay proceedings.

The Use of Sunshine: a Christmas Narrative.
By S. M. Hoby.

THOUGH this tale has been meant for a Christmas book, there is no reason why the attractions which it possesses should not hold out till Easter, Midsummer, or Martinmas. Its somewhat conceited title symbolically prepares us for the story of a dark and cold Irish parish, into which the active virtue of an English clergyman and his sister bring light and warmth. By the same spell, they melt the adamant heart of the hard and eccentric owner of the Great House:—which personage, by the way, is one of the oldest inhabitants of Novel-land. S. M., like the tale-teller with whom we have just parted company, has no objection to the well-worn conflicts and intrigues of the Minerva Press school. Besides virtue, energy, and patience, the mystery of a sad history is brought to bear upon the relations betwixt Horace and Marion and Mr. Kennedy. This mystery is cleared up with a delicious neatness when the end of the tale draws near, and when it becomes time for the heroine to take the veil and go to church.—S. M., however, winds up her narrative in her own way,—which is somewhat according to the Gregorian mode. The altar to which she leads her bride is "raised two steps and covered with crimson velvet," and backed by "a traceried window of stained glass." The carved seats have lily ornaments. There is a "graceful screen" before the chancel, and "a monogram" which "gratifies the thoughtful gazer by presenting him with a visible sign of the idea which fills his heart." In short, a little *St. Barnabas Church* must needs be reared among the cabins and shebeen-houses of a rude and wild Irish parish ere 'The Use of Sunshine' can be considered as complete. There is no great harm in this,—no bitterness nor lack of charity in the consummation of the Anglo-Romanist idea,—but a dreamy and useless popery which needlessly spoils a useful and pleasing narrative.

The School for Husbands; or, Molière's Life and Times. By Lady Bulwer Lytton. 3 vols. Skeet.

IN the infuriate preface to this novel Lady Bulwer Lytton outdoes her former prefatory doings. She makes noisy profession of poverty,—declaring herself unable "to make both ends meet" as a baronet's lady should on ten times the income of the Man of Ross—and, therefore, compelled to write for her bread. Next, she publicly thanks Mr. Skeet, her publisher, for having advanced to her money. Thirdly, with arms a-kimbo, she goes the round of the press,—hectoring, scolding, calling names in the highest style of such accomplishments,—unfeignedly anxious, it would seem, to gather a crowd by her powers of abuse. Alas! such flowers of rhetoric as hers grow in every lane and alley,—and will scarcely prove so provocative in print as seems to be her heart's (and hate's) desire!

Such a preface as Lady Bulwer Lytton's might well deter any reader from undertaking the novel heralded by so offensive and gratuitous a display of personal grievances.—Nevertheless, the entrance kennel once passed, the precincts within will be found not wholly devoid of attraction,—nor are these soiled with the coarse personal appeals and allusions which the mire in the vestibule might have prepared us to find within. The title is a misnomer. Here is no 'School for Husbands,'—no story of Molière's life, beyond that of the episode of his marriage with Armand Bejart;—but a tolerably lively picture of the court of Louis Quatorze, into which a new *Sir Francis Wronghead*, more blunt, boobyish and boisterous than the original country squire, is thrust. Lucy Haw-

thorne, the said *John Bull's* daughter, stood in need of a persecutor to make her love-story interesting,—and who so fit by way of foil and tormentor as her father? If the English characters, including Sir Rupert Singleton, the *Romeo* of the piece, are failures,—some of the French *dramatis personæ* are not ill hit off. Here, by way of example, is the description of a too-well known lady, who merely, as it were, crosses the stage.—

"Rupert now directed his attention to the boxes on either side of him, which were rapidly filling; the stage box, more especially on his right hand, excited his curiosity; from seeing a young lady, apparently about eighteen or twenty, of great personal attractions, enter it, surrounded by a perfect swarm of men; one removing her hood, another carrying her fan, a third her bouquet, while a fourth arranged her chair, and a fifth stooped down to place a footstool for her; the whole house, including *les somités aristocratiques*, evinced the greatest *empressement* to bow to this lady, who returned their greetings, with a circular salutation, which included them all, in the most graceful manner, and with the least possible trouble to herself, as she sank into her chair, and leant back to speak to one of her satellites, who was in waiting at the back of it. She was very little above the middle height, of beautifully rounded proportions; and plump, without being fat; her skin was of a dazzling and satiny whiteness; her bust, hands and arms being most symmetrical; her face was more round than oval, her forehead was high and intellectual, the brows being low, straight, and beautifully pencilled; her eyes were large and liquid, and of a dark hazel; her nose small, white, and excessively *piquant*, having the end descended a little below the delicately chiselled nostrils, which had those little *fossettes* at each side, that a century and a half later Madame de Genlis was so vain of possessing. Her cheeks were suffused with that vivid, yet delicate, and peach-like bloom, so rare among her countrywomen; her mouth was a little large, but the lips were so deep and bright a red, and formed such a perfect Cupid's bow, from the short upper lip to the dimpled chin, and the teeth within it were so dazlingly white, that envy itself could find nothing to criticise. Her magnificent hair (which was a dark brown, with that Georgione or horse-chestnut red varnished tinge through it, as if sun-beams had got entangled amongst its meshes), she wore, according to the fashion of the time, wreathed in plaits round the back of her head, and divided very low on the forehead, with a profusion of long tendril like ringlets on either side, which were tied with knots of blue satin ribbon, over which, so as to show the blue ribbon through, were large bows of set pearls, with streamers and tassels of fine Oriental, pear-shaped, strung pearls, and the shoulders and front part of her *Berthe* were also fastened with the same, likewise the centre of her bodice, down to the point of her stomach, were hung one large pearl, nearly the size of a pigeon's egg; her dress was composed of white *moire*, with a broad sky-blue velvet stripe upon it, while the *Berthe* was entirely of blue velvet, with a *Résille* or network of pearls over it, which formed no contrast to her snowy skin. 'What a beautiful girl!' exclaimed Rupert. 'Who is she?'—'You are partly right and partly wrong: beautiful she most unquestionably is, but for her girlhood! if you want to find that, you must go back to the time when our friend Molière accompanied his late Majesty, Louis Treize, to Narbonne, in 1641, and, even then, she was not over *girlish*, being at that time five-and-twenty, as last Tuesday she completed her forty-sixth year.'—'Impossible,' said Rupert.—'Nothing is impossible to Ninon de l'Enclos, except, perhaps, ceasing to be Ninon,' rejoined Rohault.

—The sunbeam simile applied to the hair of the French enchantress is not Lady—but Sir—Bulwer Lytton's:—having been better used by him in the portraiture of a heroine, we think in 'Devereux.'

We have only to add, that the part which really gives Molière his place and importance in this novel, is not that of husband at school, but of good fairy to a pair of young hearts. The dramatist protects the lover of the British brute's

daughter—generously creeps into the ear of *Le Grand Monarque*—interests him in the wooing of the young Englishman—and absolutely prevails on Louis Quatorze, the pompous and self-engrossed, to bear a part in a plot of surprise and beneficence resembling the fifth act of a 'Honey-moon' or 'Hunchback' rather than anything in real life. This may be more pretty than probable; but it winds up the story with that florid felicity and graceful good fortune which old and young readers love.—By way of last word and warning, let us put it to Lady Bulwer Lytton, whether she can mend her position either as an authoress or as an individual by exposing her private quarrels and rancours to the curiosity of the circulating libraries?—and whether, since she professes to write for money, she might not more wisely spend her wit in perfecting her tales and correcting her proofs than in writing odious prefaces?

ALMANACS FOR 1852.

A short notice will dispose of a few remaining almanacs and year books now lying on our table, having made their appearance at a later hour than is usual with the class to which they belong.—Not more out of courtesy towards a stranger than on account of its own merits as a compilation, we begin with *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge*. This work, now in the twenty-third year of its age, has a large circulation both in the United States and in Europe,—and deserves its circulation, being in and for America what 'The British Almanac and Companion' is for this country. The article on recent discoveries in astronomy is carefully drawn up by Lieut. Davis, of the United States Navy; and among other tabular matter of interest we find a valuable collection of meteorological returns from various parts of the Union.—*The Scottish Temperance League Register and Abstinence's Almanac*, under the very gayest of exteriors, contains within its ninety-six pages about as dismal and unreadable a mass of matter as could well be brought together. Here we have none of the usual matters of commonplace almanac literature. Instead of lists of the royal household, of peers and of honourable members, we find a string of some 2,000 names, arranged under Scotch hamlets—Innerleithen, Inverkeithing, and so forth—which appear to be those of the "abstainers" for whose use the almanac is compiled. But if it be not very exhilarating reading to go over column and column of M'Kenzies, M'Gregors, and M'Phersons, varied only by "the Sandy or Jennie" which may act as a prefix,—still less agreeable is it to pore over tables of crime, sickness, and mortality, with their terrible meanings all ingeniously strained to serve a purpose and illustrate a moral to which they have often no more than an incidental relation. In the midst of so much that is lugubrious, it is a relief to fall on a passage in which the late economy of the Crystal Palace is claimed as a great and peculiar triumph over the wine-bibbers. We had always believed that the prohibition of spirits in the Exhibition building was a matter of police; we now learn that it was on principle,—the "higher classes" having become converts to the cold water system.

Who's Who in 1852?—contains its usual useful matter, somewhat extended.—We may say the same of Mr. Legh's *Ombrological Almanac*, which professes to be in the matter of weather what Zaddiel's production pretends to be in regard to events. Mr. Legh, however, has the "courage of his opinion," and prints his name and his honours.—Peter Legh, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., author of 'The Music of the Eye,' &c. in full on his title-page, to challenge attention to his vagaries.

Deane's Illustrated Almanac is a specimen of puffing that might almost break the hearts of the small minstrels who chant the daily and weekly praises of "Morrison's pills," or—

Thine incomparable oil, Macassar,

in the advertisement columns of our contemporaries. But even masters in the art will fall into mistakes at times. That there is but a step from the sublime

to the ridiculous the "poet" who is "kept" by the enterprising tradesman is well aware—for that figure of rhetoric which permits a writer to begin with an apostrophe to the moon and end with the praise of a new palette, is his stock property. But if he would retain the one separating step—the word of transition—he should recollect the old admonition, "no man can tell what a day may bring forth," and not venture on prophecy. Even when a man refers to the enlightenment of the age in order to puff his own candlesticks, he must observe the unities of time and place. But what shall be said of a person's good report of his own wares who is so rash as to tell his customers that on New Year's Day, 1852, "not only does good-will prevail amongst us, but peace on earth is cultivated and enforced alike in the palace and the council"?

As for two or three years past, *The Post Magazine Almanac and Court and Parliamentary Register* is chiefly devoted to the interests and announcements of the insurance and assurance offices,—the name of which is becoming Legion.—*The Churchman's Year Book* for 1852, a new aspirant for popular favour, is, as its name suggests, a sort of ecclesiastical annual register, in which are detailed the facts and proceedings of the State and of other corporate bodies in all that relates to the interests of the Anglican Church. Of course the excitement arising out of "the Papal aggression" is one of the main topics here discussed and illustrated by documents; and very pointed reference is made, not without airs of retaliation and triumph, to certain conversions made during the past year in Ireland. If the reports of the Irish Society may be relied on, the extent and character of these conversions are certainly remarkable,—and the connexion which they appear to have with the progress of education is in itself a moral phenomenon full of interest for the philosopher and the statesman.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

New College, London: the Introductory Lectures delivered at the Opening of the College, October 1851.—The interest of this volume, as might be inferred from its title, is not confined to the students of the College in St. John's Wood and their friends. It is, of course, chiefly addressed to that particular audience and class; and it contains certain information as to the terms and courses, which the general reader will not care about. But the lectures have a value quite distinct from the occasion which produced them. The discourse on 'The History of Classical Learning,' by Dr. William Smith, and that on 'The Study of the Natural History Sciences,' by Dr. Lankester, are particularly deserving of attention for the broad outline and careful criticism which each affords to the student in these respective departments of human culture.

A Cracker Bon-bon for Christmas Parties. By Robert B. Brough.—Such of our readers as are also frequenters of "the little theatre" in the Haymarket, are familiar with the style of Christmas pleasantries which comes in due season from the pen of Mr. Brough. The 'Cracker Bon-bon' consists of Christmas mummeries, charades, and other drolleries, such as they are, for private representation now that the children are at home from school. The audience which revels in an extravaganza or gloats over a pantomime may here find congenial sources of Christmas merriment.

The Wide-World; or, the Early History of Ellen Montgomery. Edited by a Clergyman of the Church of England. 2 vols.—This work appears to have been written by an American lady of the evangelical school; and its special object is to show that human happiness depends less on the discharge of social and moral obligations than on the observance of certain conventional codes of worship. As a work of Art, we can say but little in its favour; yet there are in it such descriptions of American scenery and such nice portraiture of character—especially female—as suggest the idea that the writer is capable of better things.

Pleasant Pages. 2 vols.—We are not sure that these "pages" will be considered "pleasant" by the little people to whom they are addressed. They treat, in the form of a family dialogue, of

history, science, and so on,—but the matter is not so engagingly presented as we have seen it in other instances of "philosophy in sport."

The Sixteenth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland (for the year 1849).—As usual, this Report contains all the special correspondence of the Education Board, with summaries of its progress for the year.

Leaves from the Note-Book of a Naturalist. By W. J. Broderip, Esq.—The form—that of papers in a monthly contemporary—in which this work originally appeared, forbids our entering into any detailed criticism of its contents. Those who have read Mr. Broderip's 'Zoological Recreations' will be prepared here for a work of no ordinary interest,—and we can assure them that they will not be disappointed. Seldom has natural history found amongst its ardent cultivators one so well versed in ancient and modern learning, and in all that knowledge which renders scientific writings attractive to the general reader as Mr. Broderip. The papers here published are devoted more particularly to observations on the higher animals,—especially those which are exhibited in the gardens of the Zoological Society. Those who are in the habit of visiting these gardens for either instruction or amusement could not have a better guide than Mr. Broderip. We hope that he will continue to write on the creatures in these gardens,—so as to render this interesting Vivarium not merely a place for loungers and curiosity seekers, but one wherein the great principles of Zoology may be studied, and the relations of man to the animal kingdom investigated and learnt.—When, by the way, are the lectures of the Society to be commenced? When the lecture-room is built, we doubt not Mr. Broderip would read a few pages from his note-book; and we dare promise the Council an audience,—especially if they begin in the summer.

A Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Denman on the Slave Trade, with a Plan for its speedy and final Extinction.—We do not recognize a new idea in this plan for the speedy and final extinction of the odious traffic. The Americans have already, in the foundation of Liberia, put the schemes of mixing civilized Africans with the native population in course of practical execution. Beyond this the author of the 'Letter' has nothing to propose—except his regret that this is not being done by England instead of America.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.—Among the sterling pleasures which, though few, make rich amends for the many grievances and misconstructions that await honest critics, there is none so great as the discovery and support of distant and unknown genius. Such pleasure the *Athenæum* may fairly claim in the case of Mr. Hawthorne. Like all men so richly and specially gifted, he has at last found his public,—he is at last looked to, and listened for:—but it is fifteen years since we began to follow him in the American periodicals, and to give him credit for the power and the originality which have since borne such ripe fruit in 'The Scarlet Letter' and 'The House of the Seven Gables.' Little less agreeable is it to see that acceptance after long years of waiting seems not to have soured the temper of the writer,—not to have encouraged him into conceit,—not to have discouraged him into slovenliness. Like a real artist, Mr. Hawthorne gives out no slightly planned nor carelessly finished literary handiwork. His 'Wonder Book' is meant for children,—yet, like the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen, grown people will be glad to devour its wonders themselves. Six of the old classical legends of Mythology,—those of Medusa, Midas, Pandora, the Golden Apple, Philémon and Baucis, and Pegasus—are told by him in an entirely new fashion, and with such grace, humour and poetry, as few command. Mr. Hawthorne is sure that "these old immemorial fables" are neither Greek nor Chaldean, nor exclusively belonging to any country whatsoever,—and has accordingly claimed and substantiated his right to handle them in his own fashion. More delicious stories for children we have rarely seen. The framework, too, is at once pleasantly American and gracefully fantastic.—Since we have by

accident mentioned Herr Andersen's name, we may take this opportunity of mentioning that a second edition of his '*Danish Legends and Fairy Tales*,' much enlarged, and forming a thick and closely printed volume full of capital and charming stories, is before us.

Serious heads will possibly be shaken, and solemn eyes lifted up, when we repeat our judgment that we had rather preach to our children from Mr. Hawthorne's new version of the *Chimera*, or from the constancy of Herr Andersen's "Constant tin soldier," than from a homily like *Margaret Cecil*; or, "I can, because I ought," by Cousin Kate. We prefer the former fantasies, not because there is one single scruple of unsound principle or of uncharitable practice in the doctrine and illustration propounded by our authoress,—but from the utter unreality of her example. In the precocious perfection of such an earnest, self-sacrificing and self-helpful child as Margaret Cecil we cannot believe. Thrown from a very early age on her own resources, she is as perpetually present to herself as *Susan Hopley*, the marvellous heroine of Mrs. Crowe's tale. Difficulty ceases to be difficulty,—trial is no longer trial with one so ready and so steady. We would put no limits to noble and virtuous aspiration,—but the calm foresight, the patience, and the completeness here described do not belong to the April days of childhood.

Reserving sundry other books for children till another notice, we can only devote one line to *New Tales of Fairy Land*,—as being less new than the old tales with which we have been dealing;—a second, to *Aunt Effie's Rhymes for Children*, in which we have the nonsense of the established nursery-jungle rather than its pretty extravagances or its humane precepts;—a third, to Mrs. Harriet Myrtle's *Home for the Holidays: Simple Stories for Young People*,—a volume deserving its name,—which implies praise from all who are as thoroughly convinced as we are that simplicity is equi-distant from slighness and from silliness.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Ainsworth's (W. H.) *Miser's Daughter*, 12mo. 1s. 6d. bds. 2s. 6d.
 Arbouset and Daumas's *Tour to Cape of Good Hope*, trans. 4s. 6d.
 Auld's (H.) *Digest of the Law of Scotland*, Vol. 1, 8vo. 12s. 6d.
 Blundell's (H.) *Medicine Mechanica*, post 8vo. 6s. 4d.
 Coleridge's (H.) *Poems*, with Memoir, 2d. edit. 2 vols. 6s. 12s.
 Donaldson's (Dr.) *Complete Latin Grammar*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. 1d.
 Ellis's *Irish Education Socially Considered*, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Emily Howard, by Mrs. Dunlop, 3 vols. 8vo. 12s. 6d. bds.
 Evans's (Rev. J. H.) *Memoir and Remains*, 8vo. 12s. cl.
 Gardner's (The) *Magazine of Botany*, Vol. 3, 4to. 12s. cl.
 Gleig's School Series, *Latin Astronomy*, 12mo. 6s. 4d. cl.
 Grenville Papers, edited, with Notes, by Smith, Vols. 1 & 2, 12s.
 Hengstenberg on *Revelation of St. John*, trans. Vol. 1, 8vo. 10s. 6d.
 Higgins's *Recorder in the Solar Ray*, 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Howell's (Rev. W.) *Remains*, 2d. edit. 8vo. 5s. cl.
 Instinct and Reason, definitely Separated, by Gordonius, 1s. 6d. cl.
 James's (R.) *The Psalter*, new edit. royal 8mo. 2s. cl.
 Journal Kept during a Summer Tour, Part 1, 8vo. 2s. cl.
 Lancaster's (Rev. J.) *Book of Aspirations*, 8vo. 3s. cl.
 Large's (J.) *Titles*, &c. of Christ, Vol. 1, 2d. edit. 12mo. 1s. 8d. cl.
 Lemon's *Mark's Creed*, 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Lessons on the Epistles, 1s. cl.
 London (The) *Psalmist*, edited by J. Surman, imp. 8vo. 16s. cl.
 Literary (The) *Almanac for 1852*, 8vo. 2s. cl.
 Mason's (R. H.) *Pictures of Life in Mexico*, 3 vols. post 8vo. 12s. 4s.
 Maxwell's *Reminiscences*, 2d. edit. 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Menzies's (Rev. A.) *Woman, her Mission*, &c. trans. 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Natural History of the Year for Children, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Neander's *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 7, trans. 7s. 6d. cl.
 Olshausen and Wiesinger on *Philippians*, &c. trans. 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Parlor Library, *Don Quixote's Slave King*, 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Pascal's *Provincial Letters*, trans. by M'Crie, 2d. edit. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Patterson's *Journal of a Tour in Egypt*, &c. 8vo. 12s. cl.
 Poems, Sacred and Miscellaneous, by H. G., 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.
 Pryor's *The Kent-Charges for 1852*, 8vo. 1s.
 Reeves's *Amateur's Companion for 1852*, 12mo. 1s.
 Sandham's *Nisi The Schoolfellows*, new edit. 12mo. 2s. cl.
 Savory's *Compendium of Domestic Medicine*, 4th. edit. 12mo. 5s. cl.
 Story's (J.) *Life and Letters*, 2 vols. royal 8vo. with Portrait, 12s. 10s.
 Tourneur's (J.) *Easy French Lessons for the First Age*, 8vo. 1s. 2d.
 Tourneur's (J.) *Intellectual Emancipation*, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Taylor's (J. E.) *Michael Angelo*, 2d. edit. post 8vo. 3s. cl.
 Thom's *Irish Almanac and Official Directory for 1852*, 12s. 6d.
 Three Weeks in Wet Streets, illust. 12mo. 3s. bds.
 Trunk's (H.) *Railway Directory for 1852*, 12mo. 1s.
 Two Families, by Author of 'Rose Douglas', 3 vols. post 8vo. 12s. 1s.
 Vernon (The) *Gallery of British Art*, 2d. series, folio, 2s. 2s. cl.
 West's *Lectures on Diseases of Infancy*, 2d. edit. 8vo. 14s. cl.
 Wild's (J.) *England As It Is*, 8vo. 2s.
 Worsma's *Account of Dances and Norwegian in England*, 10s. 6d.
 Wyatt's *Industrial Arts*, Part 5, folio, 7s. 6d.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

It is a very satisfactory feature in the questions which have so long engaged the anxiety of the public in reference to the fate of Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions, that new evidence is daily coming in to strengthen the belief that, so far as regards the failure of provisions, the missing seamen need not be looked on as beyond the reach of those renewed exertions which are about to be made for penetrating the mystery that has so long involved them, and restoring at least a remnant of

them to their homes. In spite of professional pique and official coldness, a faith is more and more growing up as to the probably successful issue of a really exhaustive search over the seas into which it is no longer doubted that Sir John Franklin did at any rate make his way. The positive and cruel waste of former fine Expeditions is making itself felt in a manner which no amount of professional hoo-dwinking can avail to conceal; and earnest men are springing up ready to do the work in a spirit that needs only the support of some portion of those funds which were freely given to be so long misapplied.—Not having the fear of the mere epaulette before his eyes, Captain Martin, though only the commander of a whaler, has had the hardihood to defend his veracity as to the particulars of his interview in 1845, with Sir John Franklin—and his statement of the provident pains taken by that officer to increase his stock of provisions by shooting birds—against the anonymous sneering of one who signs himself "A Captain, R.N." Besides resolutely maintaining his own recollections,—he has called into court to support them the master of the whale ship Union, at Peterhead, who was his mate at the time of the interview in question. Mr. Walker states, that "he conversed with the crew of the Erebus, and learned from them that they had been killing birds, and had some casks of them salted,—and that parties were out at the time shooting birds, which were very numerous at that place." Mr. Walker adds, that during his acquaintance with the Arctic regions, extending over twenty-five years, he has always seen vast numbers of birds;—that the farther north he went, the more numerous they became,—and that he has often eaten them, and found them good even when unsalted.

Lieut. Griffith, who commanded the storeship appointed to supply the Erebus and Terror with their final stock of provisions in the Arctic regions, declares that the officers "were already thinking and preparing to take every opportunity of salting down or curing birds or fish."—"Sir John Franklin," he adds, "gave strict orders that whenever a cask of beef or pork was opened, the salt was to be taken the greatest possible care of."

That the Expedition was successful in procuring birds, is evidenced by the fact that at Cape Riley a great number of birds' bones were found among the relics of the Expedition.

This and a great variety of other evidence to the same effect from plain practical men can scarcely, we are of opinion, be satisfactorily disposed of by the supercilious smile of an officer of rank;—no, not if that officer were Captain Austin himself. But it may not be uninteresting to bring forward the testimony of a Royal Navy captain, in support of our proposition that the word of a master of a whaler is not necessarily inadmissible evidence for want of the Queen's commission. In Captain Beechey's account of the voyage of the *Dorothea* and *Trent* towards the North Pole in 1818, he observes:—"At the head of Magdalena Bay, Spitzbergen, there is a high pyramidal mountain of granite, termed Rotge Hill, from the myriads of small birds of that name which frequent its base, and which appear to prefer its environs to every other part of the harbour. They are so numerous that we have frequently seen an uninterrupted line of them extending full halfway over the bay, or to a distance of more than three miles, and so close together, that thirty have fallen at one shot. This living column on an average might have been about six yards broad and as many deep; so that allowing sixteen birds to a cubic yard, there must have been nearly four millions of birds on the wing at one time. This number at first appears very large; but it will not be thought so by persons who have been accustomed to observe the immense flocks of birds which emigrate to the unfrequented parts of the globe."—This is somewhat stronger than anything said by Captain Martin,—but as deposed by a Captain of the Royal Navy, will, we suppose, not be disputed by the "Captain, R.N." In that case, however, it covers Captain Martin's statements against the insinuation of being fabulous aimed at them by the latter.

Great, and it would seem almost insurmountable, difficulties appear to present themselves to the

prosecution of the project of search which Lieut. Pim left this country in the sanguine hope of being able to carry to a successful issue. In the face of wildernesses to be explored three times the length of those traversed by Wrangel—wildernesses which the Russians have not explored themselves—to be penetrated suddenly, too, and without due preparation, even if such be possible,—the Russian Government appear to have hesitated to risk the life of a British officer where success seemed impossible and destruction nearly certain. However, by letters received from Lieut. Pim, dated St. Petersburg, Dec. 31, it appears that he had obtained an audience of the Emperor, and that his Imperial Majesty had directed him to send in a statement explanatory of his whole scheme. No answer to this document had been received; but Mr. Pim continued to be treated with kindness by all classes of Russians from the Imperial Family downwards.

Capt. Beaton's plan for seeking Sir John Franklin to the north-east of Behring's Straits proceeds; and though the gallant officer has not succeeded in obtaining funds to fit out such an Expedition as he would have desired, he will sail with a steam schooner and a steam launch—provisioned for five years—at the end of next month. "I will," he says, "proceed direct to the Sandwich Islands, whence, having filled up with coal, &c. I will push on for the Straits, which I hope to be able to enter by the middle or latter end of July. When there, of course, I must be guided by the condition of the ice. If there is a possibility of getting to the north, on or about the meridian of the Straits, I shall do so; otherwise, I intend pushing my way to the north-west till I arrive at the open water seen by Wrangel, when, perhaps, I may be able to get to the north and then to the east. Should I not succeed in getting so far along the coast this year, I might employ the spring (before the breaking up of the ice) in an attempt to reach that land seen by Capt. Kellet from Herald Island, and thus be enabled to perform one part of the scheme proposed by Lieut. Pim. I would next in the spring push away to the north and east,—in which direction I believe I shall eventually find some traces of our missing ships."

Meantime, another plan of search—through an opening different from any yet proposed—has been at the last moment suggested by Mr. Petermann, which has excited much interest,—and is deserving of it. But it involves so many physical data, and is based on so much scientific reasoning, that we must let Mr. Petermann explain himself in the words of a letter which he has addressed to us.

5, Camden Street North.
 It is the general opinion that Franklin has passed through Wellington Channel. If so, it is beyond doubt that he must have penetrated to a considerable distance further, so as to have rendered it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to retrace his steps, should he have found it impracticable to proceed in any other direction. It may be idle to speculate on his probable direction and distance from Wellington Strait; but a line drawn from Melville Island to the Herald and Plover Islands (north of Bering's Straits) and another from Melville Island to Spitzbergen on the American side, would, with the Siberian coasts and islands on the Asiatic side, include the space in which he must have been arrested;—a space of fearful extent, when it is considered that the whole of the regions hitherto explored by the various Expeditions sent in search of him are scarcely one-third of those which remain unexplored.

It is a well-known fact that there exists to the north of the Siberian coast, and at a comparatively short distance from it, a sea open at all seasons; it is beyond doubt that a similar open sea exists on the American side to the north of Parry group; it is very probable that these two open seas form a large navigable Arctic Ocean.

It is evident that until an entrance into this Arctic Basin has been effected—that is to say, into that part of it which is comparatively open and navigable—scarcely any hope can be entertained of rescuing Franklin, or of ascertaining his fate. The determination to send another Expedition to Wellington Channel is noble and generous; but it is, perhaps, questionable whether the present season will prove as favourable as the last, and whether, indeed, the Expedition will succeed in passing through Wellington Channel to the north. In short, Wellington and Bering's Straits, the two chief entrances from the American side into the Polar Basin, have, owing to the proximity of the land and accumulation of ice, hitherto frustrated the most determined advances of the various Expeditions in those directions.

There are only two other sea entrances into the Polar Basin. These are between Greenland and Spitzbergen, and between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemla. With respect to the former, I shall refrain from comment, as the difficulties connected with it are very great. I therefore confine my-

self to the latter; and coming at once to the point, I would suggest that the *wide opening between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia* must probably offer the easiest and most advantageous entrance into the open navigable Polar Sea, and perhaps the best route for the search after Sir John Franklin.

From those navigators who have attempted, during the summer months, to penetrate northwards in that direction—Barentz, as early as 1594—we learn that a barrier of ice was found to stretch across the sea between these two groups of islands. And such undoubtedly is the case every year with each recurring summer. It is that immense body of Arctic ice which every spring is known to drift with a powerful current from the Siberian coast towards the Atlantic Ocean. In the 80th parallel, and beyond it to the south, it meets with the shores of Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Novaya Zemlia. Between the two latter it encounters the Gulf stream, which prevents its drifting further south in that direction, and thus renders the shores of northern Europe entirely free from that unwelcome visitor, whereas the American countries in the same latitudes are more or less encased in ice throughout the whole year. On the other hand, between Greenland and Spitzbergen the ice-bearing current steadily pursues its way, passing Iceland and the southern extremity of Greenland, and reaching the shores of Newfoundland and as far as 40 degrees north latitude: so that while its course is arrested between the northern part of Novaya Zemlia and Spitzbergen—no floating ice having ever been known to reach North Cape,—on the other side of the Atlantic it travels upwards of 2,500 miles further south.

The barrier of ice, which may justly be supposed to exist between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia during every summer, unquestionably presents obstacles to vessels penetrating northward; but there is no reason to consider these obstacles greater than those on the opposite American side in Davis's Straits, Baffin's Bay, Lancaster Sound and Barrow Straits; and we have, moreover, the testimony of numerous whalers and other navigators in the Greenland Sea, that, whenever they succeeded in pushing through this barrier of ice, they found to the north of it a sea more or less open and free from ice. A vessel, then, which by waiting for an opportunity, might effect a passage through this ice, would, no doubt, find itself in the great open navigable "Polynia" of the Russians.

The preceding remarks are offered to the attention of the reader, not as anything new, but as well-established facts, which are submitted, by way of preparation, for the consideration of that portion of my views which I believe to be entirely new, and which without further preface I now humbly submit to public notice. My belief is, nay, I think I am able to demonstrate, that during the Arctic winter months—namely, from September to March—an entrance into the North Polar Sea through the opening under consideration may be much more easily effected than during the summer months; and also, that the further navigation of the Siberian Sea may likewise be performed with much greater facility in winter than in summer.

And here the principles which regulate the distribution of the gaseous and fluid coverings of the earth must be the first instance, be brought to bear upon the subject. It admits of little doubt that some, at least, of the currents of the Arctic Ocean are revolving currents, the direction of which is during the summer months from the pole to the south, and in the winter months the reverse. Our actual observations of this phenomenon are, unfortunately, very limited, but we know just enough to confirm the argument as far as it relates to the Siberian Sea. According to Wrangell and others, the current there during the summer runs from east to west; but in autumn, when the cold sets in, it changes, and proceeds from west to east. Now, if we take the compasses, and place one point of them, on a polar chart, between Lancaster Sound and Fury and Hecla Strait (as a centre), and the other point on the Faroe Islands, and draw the latter a describe a circle to the northward, this circle will touch North Cape, the northern shores of Novaya Zemlia, Cape Taimura (the extreme northern point of Asia), the northern coasts of New Siberia and Bering's Straits. And as we know that along the first portion of this line, from the Faroe Islands to Novaya Zemlia, and also along the last portion of it from New Siberia to Bering's Straits, the current in the winter time flows in the direction from the Faroe to Bering's Straits, it is hardly possible that a counter current should exist in the intervening portion between Novaya Zemlia and New Siberia. Besides, the prime movers of the great Arctic current, which flows during summer from the Siberian coasts towards the Atlantic, namely, the Siberian rivers, are frozen during the winter, and have, consequently, no influence on the currents of the Siberian Sea. Hence there is every reason for concluding that this great Arctic current, bringing the drift-ice from the Siberian shores, relaxes its force by the end of summer, so that the Gulf stream, which during spring and summer was checked and hemmed in by the ice between Novaya Zemlia and Spitzbergen, makes at last its way towards the Siberian coast, carrying with it whatever drift ice may have remained in that region, actually clearing the way for an easy navigation.

In corroboration of this result an important physical fact relative to the distribution of temperature may be adduced, as follows:—The invaluable data of Prof. Dove on a basis, I have laid down on twelve Polar Charts the lines of equal temperature of every month in the year; and from a careful study of these lines, I have deduced the following remarkable conclusion:—There exists a movable pole of cold, which in January is found on a line drawn from Melville Island to the mouth of the river Lena, and which gradually advances towards the Atlantic Ocean, till in July it is found on a line between Fury and Hecla Strait and Novaya Zemlia, whence, in the succeeding months of the year, it gradually recedes to its former position. It is clearly manifest that this movement of the temperature is occasioned by the direction of the currents and the presence of the Polar ice. The greatest mass of this ice is (it is scarcely necessary to say) formed where the winter cold is the greatest, namely, in the region of New Siberia, on the

Asiatic side, and in that of Parry group on the American side,—and when broken up and driven away into the Atlantic, the masses of ice (as is well known) in their progress reduce the temperature wherever they go. Hence, in January and February, Melville Island and Boothia Felix are the coldest stations on record on the American side, being as much as 10 to 15 degrees colder than Igloolik and Winter Island,—whereas in July they are from 5 to 7 degrees warmer than those places, owing to the ice having floated down in the direction of the latter. On the Asiatic side, the difference is still more striking. In January, the mean temperature along the north-eastern shores of Siberia is from 40 to 50 degrees lower than that of the western shores of Novaya Zemlia, while in July it is as much as 20 degrees higher. It must be borne in mind that Wrangell and Anjou, in their memorable Expeditions, selected the most favourable of the winter months for their journeys over the ice, at a season when they hoped to find the ice most solid and of the greatest thickness. Nevertheless, they invariably found the "wide immeasurable ocean" before them, at a comparatively short distance from the land; and this, too, to the north of what is actually the coldest region on the face of the earth! Now, it would be a monstrous anomaly, if at some distance to the west, where a warm current is known to prevail, and where the temperature is from 40 to 50 degrees higher, we should not find the same "wide immeasurable ocean."

I could adduce a number of facts from the evidence of the Russian surveyors and others strongly corroborative of these views, but refrain from doing so in deference to your space. But I think it important to refer briefly to what the well-known Norwegian naturalist Keilhau has informed us of with respect to the climate of Bear (called also Cherry) Island. This island is situated between North Cape and Spitzbergen, in the same latitude as Melville Island, and is exposed to the entire influence of the surrounding ocean. Keilhau tells us that in the year 1834, during the whole of the autumn and winter, the weather was mild, and at Christmas there was rain—(this in the latitude of Melville Island, where the mercury is frozen during five successive months!) February was cold and clear; but the cold never too great for out-door work. On the 1st of June, the sun appeared, and was seen again for the first time, its disc just rising above the sea. In March, the cold increased, especially with north-east wind. April was the coldest month of all, with northerly and north-easterly wind, the sea steaming and freezing all round the island. In the middle of that month, the cold was so severe and the vapours from the sea so overpowering that it was with the greatest difficulty they could venture into the open air. In May, irregular winds. In June, the prevalent wind was north-east, which brought with it a quantity of drift ice. On the 1st of July a great deal of drift ice came with the north-east wind, but the weather was clear and mild.—Thus, we see that during the Arctic winter, when the sun was entirely below the horizon, the weather was exceedingly mild. From November till February not one instance is adduced of the winds coming from the north-east, but often from the south and south-west, with rain at Christmas. This warm wind, of course, extend farther, precisely in the direction towards the Siberian Sea. But after the appearance of the sun, when the temperature of the whole Polar region would be raised, when the ice would begin to break loose, expand, and disperse to southerly latitudes, then it was that the north-east wind prevailed; and as this wind came from and brought with it the approaching ice-masses it would naturally lower the temperature gradually from February till April, to the lowest minimum. In June and July the drift-ice itself had reached the island; but as the north-east wind now blew from the open sea behind the drift-ice, it became mild. Nothing can be more strikingly illustrative of the moving pole of cold.

Lastly, I will adduce the direct and unimpeachable evidence of one who actually saw an open sea in winter to the north of Novaya Zemlia; namely, William Barentz. This bold, and hardy, and intrepid, the only one with his party who ever spent a winter on the northern shores of that island. Even on his first voyage, when he succeeded during the summer in tracing the coast of Novaya Zemlia as far north as Icy Cape (in 77 degrees of latitude according to his reckoning) where he was stopped by the ice, he came to this important conclusion:—"We have assuredly found that the only and most hindrance to our voyage was the ice that we found about Nova Zemlia, under 73 to 76 degrees; and not so much upon the sea between both the lands (viz., Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia); whereby it appeareth, that not the nearness of the North Pole but the ice that cometh in and out from the Tartarian Sea about Nova Zemlia caused us to feel the greatest cold. As soon as we made from the land and put more into the sea, although it was much further northward, presently we felt more warmth." On the third and last of his remarkable voyages, Barentz made the land of Novaya Zemlia on the 7th of July, 1796, and reached its north-east extremity on the 16th of August. They were, however, shortly afterwards beset by ice and obliged to winter on the north coast of the island. While employed in erecting their hut on the 26th of September, the wind came from the west which drove the loose ice that was aloft away from the land, and left the sea open near the coast. Of this, unfortunately, they could not take advantage, as the ship was considerably injured and was besides imbedded in a closely-packed body of ice, so that she lay as if upon a firm and solid rock. On the whole, they suffered much less from the cold of the winter than they had anticipated, and so much snow fell during the winter that the Hollanders had almost every day to clear the entrance to their hut; a proof that open water could not have been far distant. On the 8th of March, on the appearance of the sun, the great open sea to the north began to be distinctly visible to Barentz and his party. In May they had got their two boats afloat, returning along the coasts to the south. At the commencement of this voyage in the open boats, Barentz, who had been declining in health, expired, believing and with his last breath affirming that, had he stood more between the two lands, he would have been able to enter the open sea.

I cannot but think, then, that on the consideration of all the circumstances, it will be the opinion of those who are most competent to decide on the question, that an entrance into the Polar Basin through the opening under consideration, as well as the navigation of that "wide immeasurable ocean," might be more easily effected during the Arctic winter than in the summer months. At all events, I respectfully beg to submit the point, together with the whole subject, to their serious consideration.

It would ill become me to offer any suggestions as to the mode in which an Expedition, if decided on, should be carried out; but I may perhaps be allowed to remark that as regards the time of its departure, the remaining months of the present Arctic winter would seem preferable to the first months of the next, and this for two reasons:—First, a period of from six to eight months would be gained, which under the urgent circumstances of the missing Expedition may be of vital importance. Secondly, vessels arriving in the Polar Sea in February or March, just before or when the sun has made its appearance, might, if only once able to enter the Polar basin, easily traverse it to the opposite side before the power of the sun had set in motion the great ice-bearing current, and they would then have before them the whole summer in the fullest sunshine for carrying out the object of their voyage,—namely, the search for Sir John Franklin.

But even if a vessel could not be despatched till later in the year, the chances of an entrance through the opening under consideration may, after all, turn out to be greater than through any other opening, inasmuch as the former is the widest of all, as much as nine times wider than Behring's Straits. And as to the great masses of drift ice, we know that they do not present insurmountable obstacles in an extensive sea; the late Sir John Barrow said, "Where ice can float, a vessel can float also."

Before concluding, I will merely give the distances—roughly stated—to the various points:—From Woolwich to the 80th parallel, midway between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia, is as far as from Woolwich to Cape Farewell, the southern extremity of Greenland, or about 2,900 geographical miles. From the said midway point between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia to the Herald and Plover Islands, north of Bering's Straits, is as far as from Cape Farewell to Beechey Island, at the entrance of Wellington Channel, or about 1,600 miles.—The two distances together—namely, from Woolwich to the 80th parallel, and thence to the Herald and Plover Islands—is not more than that from Woolwich to New York, U.S.A.

A screw-steamer at the rate of five miles an hour would, under ordinary circumstances, reach the 80th parallel between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlia in seventeen days.

I have been under the necessity of confining my suggestions to the merest outlines, as a further development would have extended my letter to an unreasonable length. But I shall be most happy to submit the whole of my data and charts to any one who may desire further explanation and detail.

AGUSTUS PETERMANN.

This plan has, we believe, been submitted to Capt. Beaton,—who naturally is reluctant to give up his own plan, fostered by two years' consideration. If, however, the competent authorities to whose opinions Mr. Petermann has made an appeal should consider the Nova Zembla route a more advantageous one than that by Behring's Straits, he has, we are informed, expressed his willingness to adopt the former;—but at the same time he has suggested that nevertheless he should be allowed to follow his own route if another vessel could be despatched by the Nova Zembla opening,—lest no one else should be found to follow up his proposed route. The important facts brought forward by Mr. Petermann should certainly be at once investigated. If they can be contradicted, if his conclusions can be proved to be incorrect—why, there is an end of the matter. If not, his plan deserves, as we have said, the most serious consideration; for in that case his proposed route would seem to be the most feasible and advantageous of all,—a route, as we may say, at our very doors, the Gulf stream flowing past our shores—a route which Nature herself seems to point out to us.

We have seen Mr. Petermann's charts, which give a clear view of the physical aspects of the whole Polar regions, and of his views and proposed routes.

But even if Mr. Petermann's views should be confirmed, the Wellington Channel and Behring's Straits Expeditions should by no means be abandoned. It is in addition to these that another through the Nova Zembla ought to be despatched.—Who knows but that Franklin, having reached a high northerly latitude, has been arrested by a neck of land or islands abreast of Behring's Straits or the Flats of Siberia,—where even now he may be in view of the great open "Polynia" of the Russians, without being able to enter it with his vessels:—he may even be looking forward to a vessel coming to his succour from the side proposed by Mr. Petermann.

MR. T. HUDSON TURNER.

Mr. T. Hudson Turner, one of the ablest of British Archaeologists,—and a contributor to this journal,—died of consumption on the 14th inst., at the age of thirty-seven. He was of Northumbrian extraction, and loved to count and show kin with William Turner, the earliest English herbalist. His father, when Thomas, his eldest son, was born, was a printer in the employ of Messrs. George & William Nicol, of Pall Mall,—and so able a man was he in and out of his craft, that Gifford has made very honourable mention of his name in his edition of 'Ben Jonson,'—and we have seen more than fifty letters and notes from Gifford to Mr. Turner, thanking him for his many observations and suggestions, some of which he combated and others adopted. Mr. Turner died young and in difficulties; and but for the kindness of the present Mr. William Nicol, of Pall Mall, the children would have starved for a time,—certainly would never have received that excellent education which, chiefly by the kindness of their father's old master, they were enabled to obtain. Mr. Hudson Turner was educated at Mr. Law's school at Chelsea; and sat on the same form between his elder in years the late Capt. Cunningham, author of the 'History of the Sikhs,' and his younger in years Mr. Peter Cunningham,—and the friendship there early commenced ripened as they grew in years, and continued to the last.

Mr. Turner was distinguished at school by the ease with which he learned his lessons, and the thirst which he exhibited for a species of literary and antiquarian knowledge not commonly sought by schoolboys. From studies like these he was taken in his sixteenth year; and commenced life as a printer in Mr. Nicol's office,—setting up the types of more than one of Dr. Dibdin's works. His nights he gave to his favourite historical and antiquarian pursuits, and with such success that he soon found means to better his condition. The occasion of his being enabled to effect this was as follows. He had seen an advertisement in the *Times* "wanting" a young man at the Record Office in the Tower, who could read records and translate them, and naming a particular day on which candidates for the office would be examined. Now, this was the very study with which he had made himself acquainted;—so, he asked a day's leave from his master—put on his best clothes—and went to the Tower with a modest confidence in his own abilities. Nor was he mistaken,—he was the best among many candidates, and he received the appointment. No one, let us add, rejoiced more at his good fortune, or evinced throughout life a greater interest in his well-doing, than his own and his father's old master, Mr. William Nicol.

His prospects thus accidentally brightened filled his heart with a thirst for fame, and he read and digested records of every description and books of historical character with an avidity perfectly marvellous. Fresh accessions of dusty rolls and fresh folio volumes could not weary his diligence or overlay his learning.—Great visions flitted before his mind at this time of works to be done;—and if he had completed as he began the History of England during the reigns of John and Henry the Third, which he commenced about this period,—we should have had a portion of our history quite a model in its way for necessary fullness and accuracy, and what is more, with those matters only prominent which deserved to be so. But this very desire of knowledge acted against his completing the undertaking. He was always in quest of fresh matter. He knew where and how matter lay—and he must be after it. And after it he went with continued avidity,—and with such success that scarcely any subject connected with English history from the Conquest to the accession of the House of Stuart could be touched on in conversation without Mr. Turner's pouring out in his usual facile manner, the whole stream of his great and well-digested learning on the subject.

As this desire increased—he became gradually indifferent to the reputation of an author, and anxious only for knowledge,—not on his own account only, but for the pleasure of communicating it to such as should ask him,—and he had many

askers to whom his acquirements were known and to whom he readily communicated whatever he knew. Under such severe study his health began to fail him,—and he soon became doubly indifferent to the reputation of an author. To the same cause, failing health, we must attribute some of those splenetic and clever attacks which he was wont to make on many of his own standing who had obtained a more popular name than he had chosen to achieve. Much of his bitterness, however, was only surface bitterness—made for the pleasure derived from conversational superiority.

He was taken from his 'History' by an offer from Mr. Tyrrell the City Remembrancer. Mr. Tyrrell was anxious to obtain as large a MS. collection of materials connected with the History of London as his own industry and means would enable him to collect. Mr. Turner was recommended to him as the bee to gather this kind of honey,—and an engagement was entered into by him with Mr. Tyrrell for the accumulation of the knowledge which he required. Vast stores of curious information were thus obtained, which still remain with Mr. Tyrrell, if we mistake not, in a MS. state. Let us hope that they will some day find their way into a public collection.

As soon as his engagement had terminated with Mr. Tyrrell, Mr. Turner undertook the task of editing a volume of Early Household Expenses for the Roxburghe Club:—the same volume to which we have directed attention, on several occasions, for the care with which it was edited, but above all for its admirable introduction. This volume recommended him to the Committee of the Archaeological Institute as its Resident Secretary:—an office which he accepted more on the recommendation of his friends than to gratify himself. In truth, he was in some respects unfit for the office. He was not a man of business,—knew little or nothing of red tape or accounts; and there were some about the Council who seized occasions to dwell on omissions and wound and irritate the pride of a sensitive and somewhat morbid mind. This drove him into bitter replies,—to indifference, and at length to retirement. What the Institute has since gained in knowledge of red tape it has lost in information. When Mr. Turner was Resident Secretary, antiquities were sent and explained, and questions put and answered,—and both satisfactorily. The very qualities which rendered him unfit for the office in one respect fitted him for it particularly in another. What time, after his retirement from the Secretaryship, his own favourite studies and his occupation as a Record agent, would enable him to give, he gave to his work 'On the Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages,'—of which the first volume was published, as our readers will recollect, in the spring of last year. By this work, by his Introduction to the Household Accounts, and by some of his admirable contributions to the *Archæological Journal*, his name will be heard of hereafter.—Among his friends the regret will continue to be felt, that so much youthful ardour should have been impaired by ill health,—that so much knowledge as he possessed should die with him,—and that no larger account should remain than those works which Mr. Hallam has quoted and praised in his supplemental volume to his 'Middle Ages.'

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE new arrangements respecting the engravers and die-sinkers to the Mint, occasioned by the recent changes in the constitution of the establishment and the death of Mr. Wyon, have just been completed by Sir John Herschel, and sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury. Mr. Pistrucci is to have 400*l.* a-year, and Mr. Leonard Wyon (son of the late chief engraver) 300*l.* a-year. Mr. Pistrucci and Mr. Wyon are to be called "Modellers and Engravers to Her Majesty's Mint,"—and the grants thus awarded them are to be considered as recognitions of their services and compensation for loss of claims. The two modellers are not to have residences within the Mint—but are to have additional pay for any work they may execute at the request of the Master. Their successors as "Modellers and Engravers" will have no fixed

allowance, it is understood,—but will be paid for the making of matrices only. The chief engravers in former times, it will perhaps be remembered, were allowed to undertake private commissions,—and it is a notorious fact that the work of the Mint was insufficient to occupy more than a fourth of their time, while they were often called on to execute works which commoner hands could perform as well. This common work will now be executed by a Resident Engraver, under the direction of the Superintendent of the Die Department,—and Mr. James Wyon it is said has been nominated to the appointment.—In all these arrangements it is understood that Sir John Herschel has had no other object in view than that of obtaining the assistance of "the best artists of the day."

Our readers are already aware that, in conjunction with Mr. Cardwell, Lord Mahon is to assist in the publication of the Peel Papers. It is stated in the current number of the *United Service Gazette* by the writer of 'A Visit to Apsley House,' that the Duke of Wellington has consigned the publication of his papers to the care also of Lord Mahon. If this be true, between the claims of his 'History of England' and the several memoirs of Wellington and of Peel, the noble Lord is likely to have literary work before him for a good portion of his life.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has intimated to the Government School of Mines the intention of the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, to found at that institution two annual Exhibitions, of 30*l.* each, to be called "the Duke of Cornwall's Exhibitions."

A committee of the friends and pupils of Dr. Grant, Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology in University College, London,—comprising a large list of distinguished scientific names—has been formed for the purpose of raising a fund by way of testimonial to that gentleman 'of the high esteem in which his long-continued, unwearied and original scientific labours are held by men of science in general and his pupils in particular.' "Dr. Grant," says the appeal in his behalf, "early relinquished the pecuniary advantages of his profession as a physician, in order to devote himself unreservedly to the pursuits of comparative anatomy and zoology. He spent a considerable patrimony in travelling throughout Europe, in studying at various universities, in order to acquire an extensive knowledge of his favourite branches of natural history, and in making original observations and researches at home and abroad. He was one of the first, in this country, to teach these sciences in separate and extended courses of lectures; and he has been chiefly instrumental, by his numerous publications and by his lectures, in diffusing a taste for these important studies. But, though highly advantageous to the public, Dr. Grant's labours have not been profitable to himself in a pecuniary point of view,—because attendance on courses of lectures on these subjects is not compulsory on candidates for diplomas or degrees; and his income, having been entirely dependent on the number of his pupils, has in some years been extremely limited. His friends and former pupils have accordingly determined to raise a fund which shall add somewhat to the means of this distinguished cultivator of science, until his merits shall be sufficiently recognized by those in power to induce them to confer on him the adequate Government pension which his long and valuable, but ill-requited, labours so deservedly merit."

It is said that Mr. Macaulay has delayed the publication of the third and fourth volumes of his History of England in consequence of his having obtained some new information relating to King William the Third. King William, it is asserted, figures as the chief personage in the narrative,—and the greatest stress is laid on his conduct subsequently to the Revolution.

The Edinburgh people would seem to be emulous of the fame of a certain provincial town in England, which some years since identified Miss Martineau coming from the East with the Plague,—and resolutely shutting its library doors against her, reposed on the conviction that it had thereby secured the burghers against the risk of moral infection. This bold piece of civic metonymy obtained for the town in question a distinction which was for some

time undisputed, and it wore the laurel—of a certain kind—until Chelmsford set up his Tindal statue.—Further back, our readers may have faint recollections of another town, which boasted of “standing by its ancient landmarks” when the tide of civilization was sweeping right over them:—but that got swamped, as a matter of course, and so far as we know, nothing more has been heard of it.—The Edinburgh movement suggests dim memories of old Smithfield,—and its spirit is caught probably from a careful study of that sound conservative work, the *Index Expurgatorius*. “A Public Library in this city,” says a correspondent of the good town, “called the Select Subscription Library, on Tuesday last voted the exclusion of the *Westminster Review* on the express ground of ‘heresy.’”—“I know,” he adds, “that the *Athenæum* is opposed on principle to theological discussions; but the question here is simply one of religious and literary freedom,—and as such I think you might properly take notice of so unwarrantable an interference with the rights of the general subscribers to a public institution in this Protestant country.”—An attempt is, it appears, making on the part of the less orthodox subscribers to restore their own freedom of reading and interpretation,—which movement being heretical by the terms of this resolution of exclusion, we do not venture to pronounce any opinion upon it.

We are told that it has pleased the Queen to grant permission to Mr. Owen, the distinguished Professor of Comparative Anatomy at the College of Surgeons, to reside in one of the houses on Kew Green which belonged to the late King of Hanover. The gift was accompanied by a very flattering letter from Prince Albert to the Professor. Another of the houses on the same Green has, we understand, in a like kindly spirit been presented for a residence during life to Dr. Joseph Hooker.—We have also to record a mark of royal favour bestowed by a foreign sovereign on Professor Owen. Our readers know that the King of Prussia instituted some time since an Order of Merit, for men distinguished in art and in science,—and which consists of sixty Chevaliers, thirty Prussians and thirty foreigners. Amongst the latter was the late Professor Oersted; and Professor Owen has been selected by Frederic William to supply the vacancy occasioned by his death.—In this Order there are now five Englishmen:—Mr. R. Brown, Sir David Brewster, Sir J. Herschel, Mr. Faraday, and Professor Owen.

By the way, we are informed by Prof. Owen that he was not a candidate for the office in the British Museum to which, as we last week announced, Mr. Waterhouse has been elected. “I transmitted to the elective body,” says the Professor, “a ‘testimonial,’—not a ‘withdrawal’ in Mr. Waterhouse’s favour.”

Among the variety of new periodical publications which generally start into life at the commencement of a new year, we notice the announcement of one which if conducted in the spirit of its profusion will occupy useful ground and should effect much good. It is a monthly journal which assumes to advocate the cause of sanitary reform,—and has for its objects the dissemination of correct views on the philosophy of life, health and disease, and the exposure of those errors in our social system which have been productive of so many physical and moral evils amongst us. It undertakes also to inquire into the effects of various occupations on the health of our labouring population, and into the causes of endemic and epidemic diseases. It starts with a somewhat high-sounding title—“The Journal of Physical Regeneration.”

“This is the patent age of new inventions,” wrote Byron thirty years ago, ere railways, electric telegraphs, clairvoyance, coldwater cures, or Parr’s life pills had yet been heard of. In these days, the world runs fast:—the sixty thousand miles an hour at which we speed through space is but a type of the moral movement into which mankind seems hurrying. As vagaries go, it may seem no great flight of fancy to invent a city: many persons, from Bellers downwards, have done so—while More, Harrington and Campanella have supplied manners and politics to match. Oceanas and Cities of the Sun have long been the common

refuge of dreamers; and we can count “Clover-nook,” “Icaris” and “Victoria” among the vision-cities of our own day. This old world of ours is ever young! The latest dream of this kind—the newest city on paper—is the offspring of a Belgian engineer—M. X. Tarte, of St. Fosse-ten-Noode, who has seriously laid his project before the members of the Belgian Chambers. He proposes to extemporize a town on the left bank of the Scheldt, opposite to Antwerp, which he assures the representatives “will multiply the sources of labour,” “open to the country extensive markets for the development of her industry,” and guarantee “the preservation of her nationality.” Such a city, he says with some simplicity, would require only a railway in order to find itself in communication with various busy towns in Flanders! Rising with his subject, M. Tarte dilates into prophecy.—“From the day,” he says, “when immense entrepôts shall be opened on the left bank of the Scheldt, this splendid river, now a desert in comparison to the Thames, with the interior waters of Holland, the Rhine, the Elbe, the Weser, the Seine, the Loire, the Rhone, will be covered with vessels of every nation; and from that day, our provinces of Flanders will have recovered their antique splendour, and the pauperism which desolates them will have disappeared.”—Now, the provisions of genius, to secure an audience, should build on sound premises:—and we must say, that we had not before heard of the Scheldt being “a desert” in comparison with any river in the world.—The sanguine projector does not content himself with the material elements of prosperity lying in the rear of his city. He looks across the water,—and recollects that Antwerp is connected by railway with Brussels, Paris, Cologne, and the vast net-work of Continental iron-roads. Could this new town and proposed railway join on to that city by means of a bridge over the Scheldt, he thinks the scheme would be complete,—for in that case France and Germany, as well as St. Nicholas and the Pays de Waes, might become its tributaries. He merely forgets that Antwerp is there already!—a city large enough for the commerce of the river, possessing an admirable site, docks which cost Napoleon millions of pounds sterling, perfect railway communications, and one of the strongest citadels in Europe for its defence. A bridge across the river to connect the private railway from Ghent with the State lines on the other side would render a new town on the low and swampy left bank useless.

But there are other projectors abroad who yield in no point of imagination to the most sanguine Belgian of them all. A scheme brought into the market of opinion—and offered to the money market, if they will take it—by M. Horeau, an architect in Paris—and to which he asserts, in safe and general terms, that he has obtained the adhesion of English, German and Swedish engineers—has in it a boldness of conception and a simplicity of detail which shame the more familiar yet elaborate conception of M. Tarte. For fourteen millions sterling, if anybody will give it him, M. Horeau intends to lay a railway in the bed of the sea between England and France. The road is to be inclosed in a tube similar to that which crosses the Menai Strait,—and, if we understand the particulars, the tube is to be fastened down in its bed by huge iron pins at intervals of a mile throughout the twenty-one miles of its sub-marine course:—which pins will perform the further service of carrying lights on their heads at night to warn ships against anchoring over the railway. The plan, as we have said, is very simple:—indeed so exceedingly simple, that we think it necessary to say that if the calculations for return of outlay have proceeded on any expectation of including us in the passenger traffic, so far at least the figures are wrong. This, for the discharge of our consciences and the warning of the money market.

The Metropolitan Typographical Widow and Orphan Fund, founded two years ago, continues to increase in strength and usefulness. The total number of subscribing members is now 721, and the subscribed fund has reached to upwards of 800*l*. During the past year 320*l*. has been paid to the widows and orphans of 16 deceased members; and,

after deducting the working expenses of the fund, printing, secretary’s salary, &c., a balance of nearly 400*l*. remains,—which sum has been invested in the funds.

The style of cottage so well known from the specimen exhibited by Prince Albert in Hyde Park during the Exhibition has already come into actual use. A row of twelve, built exactly after the “model,” has been erected on a plot of ground near the Shadwell Station of the Blackwall Railway—which every one acquainted with London knows to be an extremely poor and wretched district. Some of the lowest hovels in the metropolis were removed to make way for the new abodes. If the experiment succeeds—that is, if the poor should be found to prefer these new cottages to their old dwellings—several more of the same kind are to be erected in the same street.

A public meeting has been held in Nottingham to consider on the means of carrying into effect Mr. Lawson’s munificent proposal for the erection of a Midland Observatory in that town:—the Duke of Newcastle presiding. Many arguments—too obvious to need reproducing here—were urged to show the importance to the town and surrounding district of such an establishment as now conditionally solicits their acceptance:—and it was proposed that a literary, philosophic and scientific institute should be formed in connexion with the Observatory, as an essential adjunct. The amount of funds required was stated to be 6,000*l*. A committee was formed to collect provisional subscriptions; and various sums, amounting in all to about 1,000*l*. were announced as already obtained, in addition to the handsome subscription towards the amount offered by Mr. Lawson himself.

The *Journal des Débats* reports the death, in his fifty-fifth year, of M. Benjamin Laroche,—a translator into French of some of the works of Shakespeare and of Byron.

It is stated from Turin, that since the Sardinian University has been removed from Madavi to that capital it has become one of the most flourishing institutions of the kind in Italy. At present it reckons 1,926 students,—and upwards of 400 readers frequent daily the hall of its library.

Mr. Catlin, the well-known collector of Red Indian relics, has brought before the public, as our readers have been informed, his scheme—long talked of in private—for establishing what he calls a “Museum of Mankind.” There is a bold and alliterative grandeur in the sound. We have recently had an Exhibition in Hyde Park which a thousand times more than any other collection ever got together might be considered as deserving that name:—yet how much was wanting to even its completeness! At best it presented, where the works of men were concerned, only the works of the living generation. The illustrious dead were not there, even in their fragments. Whole orders of civilization were absent:—Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman. Of the genius of the Saracen how inadequate was the illustration! Of the vanished races of the world it reported nothing—of the vanishing races next to nothing. If this great collection, then, was, after all, but a section of what might properly be called a Museum of Mankind, how vast must be the scheme which shall comprehend all its details!—Now, when Mr. Catlin comes to explain his idea, it turns out that he defines the word “mankind,” for his purpose, as meaning no more than the expiring members of the great human family—the Red Indian, the native Australian, the Greenlander, the Peruvian,—and so forth. Measures, no doubt, might be taken for obtaining and preserving such memorials as exist of these and similar races; and it is a reflection on the Governments of England and of the United States that they have hitherto remained so indifferent in the matter,—that being severally custodians of certain interesting and rapidly obliterating pages of the book of human history, they should suffer the final extinction of the record to take place before their eyes without any attempt to preserve its lessons for futurity. Mr. Catlin has done work which will entitle him to the lasting gratitude of ethnographical inquirers,—and we have no objection to the enlargement of his present collection by the purchase of similar relics and

manufactures of other vanishing tribes with such funds as the public may be persuaded to place in his hands for that open and avowed purpose. But the public must not be misled into imagining that what Mr. Catlin proposes to do supplies the need of England in the matter. If we understand him aright, he intends to retain his collection in his own hands until it is completed, and then to sell it to any Government that will give the most money. If individuals will supply him with means on such terms, we shall not object; but, as we have remarked on other occasions, it is the duty of our Government to see that a museum of the ethnology of our own empire be formed in London. On many of the islands and continents over which we rule—the two Archipelagos, the South Sea Islands, Africa, Canada, Australia—we meet with races either expiring or wholly changing in character, so that in a few years we shall look for them in vain. It would be neither difficult nor expensive for the State, were it so minded, to make such collections as should represent whatever degree of intelligence and skill is possessed by these, and illustrate their manners and mode of life. That which a private individual, with very limited means, has done to a great extent for the Red men—might readily be done for the Black and Copper-coloured races of Africa and Australia by a great nation.

THE ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION (with the Collection of Materials, Patents, Processes, &c. connected with Architecture) is NOW OPEN from Ten till dusk, at the Portland Galleries, opposite the Polytechnic Institution, Regent Street.—Admission, 1s, including a Catalogue. Season Tickets, including a Catalogue, admitting the holder for the 10th of January to the 15th of March, 2s. Free Tickets may be had for Workmen, on application at the Galleries.

JAS. EDMISTON, Junr. } Hon.
JAS. FERGUSON, F.R.S. } Secs.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.—The CRYSTAL PALACE as a GARDEN.—The Dioramas of the OVERLAND MAIL to INDIA, and TAJ MEHAL now exhibiting daily, at Three and Eight o'clock, will shortly close (for the production of the New Diorama, the Military Achievements of His Grace the Duke of Wellington).—Admission, 1s, 2s, 3s, and 3s.—Doors open half-an-hour before each representation.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—LECTURE by Dr. Bachmayer on the PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC RECREATION.—LECTURE by J. H. Pepper, Esq., on CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS, beginning with the variable Conditions of OXYGEN and PHOSPHORUS.—LECTURE on STEAM-BOATS AND SUBMARINE LAMP.—NUMEROUS PRIZE MODELS, WORKS OF ART, SPECIMENS OF MANUFACTURES, &c., from the Great Exhibition, explained by Mr. Crisp.—OPTICAL EFFECTS IN DISSOLVING VIEWS, MICROSCOPE, CHROMATOPHE, &c.—DIVER AND DIVING BELLS, &c., &c.—Admission, 1s; Schools and Children under ten years of age, Half-price.—Open daily from Eleven till Five, and every evening, except Saturday, from Seven till half past Ten.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS. HOLDERS OF FAMILY TICKETS, and SUBSCRIBERS to the READING ROOMS, 5, Cavendish Square, are invited to inspect the VALUABLE DEPOSITS from the GREAT EXHIBITION, just added, to many of which Medals have been awarded.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Jan. 12. —C. Fowler, Esq., V.P. in the chair.—Prof. Donaldson explained the system of Polychromatic Embellishment in Greek Architecture, as illustrated in the recent work on the 'Polychromy of the Ancients' by M. Hittorff, architect, of Paris. Mr. Donaldson first adverted to the various works and essays on this interesting and much-disputed subject, by M. Hittorff, M. Raoul-Rochette, Dr. Kugler, Herr Semper, and others; and particularly to a work on Athenian architecture published by the Society of Dilettanti—being the result of investigations by Mr. F. C. Penrose and Mr. Willson. The recent work of M. Hittorff contains a complete *résumé* of the subject, both historically and practically, and is illustrated by a series of coloured engravings, embracing a complete restoration of the Temple of Empedocles, at Selinus, in Sicily;—a small tetrastyle edifice, which the author has studied with elaborate minuteness. Referring to the illustrations of this work, and occasionally to other illustrations, by Herr Semper, and to a restored polychromatic elevation of the Parthenon by Mr. Owen Jones.—Mr. Donaldson described in detail the authorities advanced by M. Hittorff for the application of colour to the bases, columns, capitals, entablature, pediment, main walls, pavement, roof, and in short every portion of the temple in question. He concluded by expressing his concur-

rence with M. Hittorff in the belief that colour was systematically and generally, and not merely occasionally, applied by the Greeks to the decoration of their temples. Many interesting points were adverted to in the course of these details; especially the admixture in the Temple of Empedocles of the parts generally assigned as peculiar to distinct orders,—such as the combination of an Ionic column with a Doric entablature. It was resolved to postpone the discussion on this paper until the next meeting.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Jan. 5.—J. O. Westwood, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. A. White exhibited a specimen of *Anarta Richardsoni* (Hadena R., Curtis) brought by C. Ede, Esq., R.N., from the north shore of Baffin's Bay. Mr. White also exhibited some rare and beautiful insects, part of a quantity sent to him for the Society by Hugh Low, Esq., Corresponding Member at Labuan. Among them was *Tricentotoma Childreni*, which Mr. White remarked was found from Tenasserim to Borneo; and among the Lepidoptera certain species had also a very extensive habitat, ranging from Assam and Sylhet to Labuan. Mr. White proceeded to make some remarks on the geographical range and distribution of insects, to the effect that, while some species were found throughout Europe, Asia, and America, others had very limited localities. He observed that the great similarity of many Lepidoptera especially induced a doubt if the differences relied upon by entomologists to separate species were more than variations resulting from circumstances peculiar to the several localities.—Mr. S. Stevens remarked that he had received from China a *Colias* that could not be distinguished from the European *C. hyale*; and Mr. White observed that species of this genus were found even as far north as the Arctic regions.—Mr. Curtis remarked that he had lately seen insects from India and Van Diemen's Land that might be associated with European genera.—and the President said he had seen some from China closely resembling English species.—Mr. Curtis exhibited a *Cicada* found alive in the Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick upon some Orchidaceae imported from Central America. He also exhibited a nest of the spider *Epeira zebra* found by him at Nice last spring;—and made some observations on objects of entomological interest that had lately been brought under the notice of the Society.—Mr. Spence read an extract of a letter from Mr. Thwaites, one of the Members of the Society, now in Ceylon, stating that he had lectured to a mixed audience of Europeans and Cingalese on the habits and instincts of insects, especially referring to the Termites, with a view to the investigation of their metamorphoses.—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited a remarkable variety of *Arygmia Paphia*, beautifully suffused with black, captured at Dareuth Wood in 1849.—The President read an extract of a letter from Brigadier Hearsay, now in India, stating that a plant of *Eriotheca speciosa*, reared with great care from American seed, had when in full bloom been suddenly attacked and destroyed by a quantity of a species of *Galernea*. He wondered that an Indian insect should thus have greedily fed upon a foreign plant,—and asked if the circumstance could be accounted for. Mr. Douglas suggested that the natural food of this beetle might probably be some plant of the same natural order as the *Eriotheca*, as some insects would feed on plants nearly allied; but he added, this does not always apply, for he once in this country found caterpillars of *Cucullia Verbasco* on *Buddleia globosa*, a native of Chili, and not in the same natural order as *Verbasco*, on which plant they usually fed.—Mr. Douglas read the conclusion of his Memoir on the British species of the genus *Gelechia* of Zeller, in which ninety-nine were enumerated.—The President announced that the first volume of 'Insecta Britannica,' a work brought out under the auspices of the Society, was just ready,—and a specimen was on the table.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 13.—J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair.—The proceedings of the evening were commenced by an address from the President on taking the chair, for the first time, after his election.—After thanking

the members and requesting their active co-operation in maintaining the interest of the meetings, and the dignity and good name of the profession,—the President proceeded to notice the principal works terminated, or in progress, and even the new projects in which engineering skill had been employed or was required.—The Great Exhibition was prominently noticed, attention being drawn to the fact of so much of the raw material and of the manufactured article being shown, with so little of the means of manufacturing, and thus the greatest portion of the lesson had been unproductive.—Turning to the more immediate occupation of the civil engineers, which had been styled "the application of mind to matter;" it was sought to be enforced, that all undertakings should be examined, not only with respect to their engineering possibility, but to their social and political influence on society.—The vast increase of private communication was noticed; four hundred millions of letters being now delivered annually, instead of seventy-six millions, as before the establishment of the penny-post system. Steam alone could have conveyed such a mass of correspondence.—The increase of population in England and the decrease in Ireland afforded an opportunity for pointing out the fine field offered in the latter country for the ameliorating effects of engineering works.—Clausen's flax process, emigration, cheap branch lines of railway, drainage, and other topics were then discussed and reasoned on. The general railway system was examined and traced; giving the principal statistical facts connected with the railways of Great Britain, the Continent, India and the United States,—in connexion with which latter, the name of General Gibbs McNeill, the pupil of Telford and George Stephenson, was mentioned as having constructed a great extent of lines. The length, direction and purposes of the railways were given, with the principal statistics connected with them. The principal ports, harbours of refuge, and general civil engineering works in Great Britain were mentioned, with some point of interest connected with each.—The electric and submarine telegraphs, with the wonderful effects they were calculated to produce on commerce and the political relations of nations, were descanted on.—The strength of the Royal Steam Navy and the wonderful progress of the commercial steam-power of England were given, with details of the statistics of several of the principal companies; and the value of auxiliary steam and screw vessels was pointed out, with the great change now operating in the collier trade of the north.—The drainage of land and its influence on rivers,—the reclaiming of lands from the sea—new modes of raising water in the fens—the sanitary regulations as applied to all large towns—agricultural engineering—its union with chemistry—increased powers for water supplies to the metropolis, and the principal cities of Great Britain—and the new mineralogical discoveries of iron ore near Middlesbrough-on-Tees and Northampton—furnished topics for a display of statistical research and reasoning; and the President, before concluding, thus expressed himself with respect to the strike of the operative engineers. At a period of such regular employment for almost all classes of artisans, and a general absence of complaint, it is unfortunate that any symptoms of dissatisfaction should have been exhibited by a body of men whose experience, intelligence, and attainments on most subjects induced the belief that they would be the last to listen to the evil counsels of designing agitators. Disunion between employers and the employed must ever be productive of evil to both; but it invariably ends in permanent injury to the men, whose occupation is the construction of machines, by which manual labour is only apparently superseded, whilst civilization is invariably advanced by affording mankind increased powers over the materials of the world.—The result of the present contest between employers, who have invested several millions sterling in tools, machinery, and buildings, and artisans, who cannot now execute work without the aid of those machines whose sphere of utility they seek to limit, cannot for an instant be doubtful; and it must be very pernicious influence that could render a body of such intelligent men so unobservant of

the true laws regulating supply and demand as to imagine they could control the prices of the labour necessary to produce those very labour-saving machines of their own manufacture, and which it is evidently their true interest to see multiplied. If their avowed objects were attained, the only result would be such an increased cost of machinery, and such uncertainty in its production, that either the trade would be driven to other countries, or the factories here must be manned by skilful foreign workmen, whose productions are, even now, scarcely second to our own. It is to be fervently hoped, that the men will discard the erroneous notion that "capital is the foe of labour;" and that as the employers have expressed their willingness to consider any individual representations made in a fitting manner, this unhappy dispute may be arranged without prejudice to either party.

The address was ordered to be printed.—Messrs. T. Brassey, E. A. Cowper, and P. M. Parsons, and Capt. T. Webb, R.E., were elected Associates.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Jan. 13.—Dr. Camps in the chair.—Mr. Ainsworth made a communication on the identification, by Dr. Wilson, of Bombay, of the ruins at Al Hadhar, in Mesopotamia, with the Hazor of Kedar, mentioned in the prophecies of Jeremiah.—A memoir was read 'On the Age of the Obelisk found at Nimrud,' by Prof. Grotefend, translated by the Rev. Mr. Renouard, and communicated by Dr. John Lee. The Professor referred the obelisk to the end, or reckoning backwards to the beginning, of the eighth century before Christ, when Shalmaneser (for so Prof. Grotefend reads Col. Rawlinson's Temenbar) was continuing the conquests which had been begun by Pul and Tiglath-Pileser. The Professor by making Sennacherib a subordinate king, carried the history of these conquests through a period of thirty-one years, all of which he describes as engraved on the obelisk.—Mr. Sharpe read a paper on the later Assyrian empire, which rose under Pul and increased under Tiglath, Shalman and Sennacherib, till it fell on the conquest of Nineveh by Nabopolassar, the Babylonian conqueror, who made that city his capital, but his successor Nebuchadnezzar removed the seat of empire to Babylon. Mr. Sharpe argued that the palaces of Nineveh were probably built under the kings above mentioned, when the Assyrian empire was widest:—his views coinciding on this point with those entertained by Prof. Grotefend. To prove that the people of Nineveh in part gained their knowledge of Art from Egypt, and often copied the fashions of that country, Mr. Sharpe pointed out that the name of Aobeno-Ra on the ivory tablet is that of the Egyptian god Amun-Ra, spelt after the Persian pronunciation;—that the name of King Tiglath was borrowed from the Egyptian King Takeloth;—that the Assyrian conqueror Bayrut carved his monument in the rock in imitation of Rameses II.;—and that the figure of Cyrus the Great on a monument at Persepolis wears an Egyptian head-dress.—These two papers were illustrated by a model of the Nimrud Obelisk, exhibited by Mr. Tennant.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** Chemical, 8.
- Statistical, 8.—'Taxation and Revenue of the Free City of Frankfurt-on-the-Maine,' by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Sykes.
- 'On Coffee,' by Mr. J. Crawford.
- Tues.** Royal Institution, 3.—'On Animal Physiology,' by Prof. T. Wharton Jones.
- Literary, 8.
- Pathological, 7.—Council.
- Civil Engineers, 8.—'On the Alluvial Formations, and the Local Changes of the South-Eastern Coast of England,' Second Session, from Beachy Head to Portland, by Mr. J. B. Reimann.
- Wed.** Geological, half-past 8.—'On the Purbeck and Portland Rocks of the South of Dorsetshire,' by Mr. C. H. Weston.
- 'On the Southern Border of the Highlands,' by Mr. D. Sharpe.
- 'On the Quartz Rock of Scotland,' by Mr. D. Sharpe.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'On the Vegetable Substances used in the Arts and Manufactures, in relation to Commerce generally,' by Prof. E. Solly.
- THURS.** Royal Institution, 3.—'On the Physical Principles of the Steam-Engine,' by the Rev. J. Barlow, M.A.
- Royal Society of Literature, 4.
- Antiquaries, 8.
- Nautical, 7.
- Royal, half-past 8.
- Fri.** Royal Institution, half-past 8.—'On the Lines of Magnetic Force,' by Prof. Faraday.
- Philological, 8.
- Sat.** Royal Institution, 2.—'On some of the Arts connected with Organic Chemistry,' by Prof. Brande.
- Astronomical, 8.—Lecture.
- Botanical, 3.
- Medical, 8.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—In consequence of some remarks of a Correspondent, H. D., to whom we addressed a notice last week, we have made inquiries from Mr. Fry relative to the pictures on glass said to have been obtained by him with a mixture of gutta percha and collodion. Mr. Fry answers the doubts of our Correspondent thus.—"Although gutta percha does not readily dissolve in ether or collodion, it does so sufficiently for the purposes required,—viz., for giving a firmness to the collodion film, and enabling the operator after blotting the surface with bibulous paper to immediately take a positive from a glass negative by gas-light in less than five seconds. If your correspondent 'H. D.' will put his collodion mixture in a gutta percha bottle for a day or so, he will obtain the required solution, and convince himself of the fact of gutta percha being sparingly soluble in collodion."

Mr. Archer has also written to us, in reply to Mr. Hunt's letter which appeared recently [ante, p. 23] in our columns, relative to the latter's experiments with corrosive sublimate on paper photographs. "Far," says Mr. Archer, "from wishing to detract from the merits of Mr. Hunt's valuable researches in photography, I should be amongst the first to acknowledge them; but in the present case, I beg distinctly to state, that I was not aware, until last Saturday that a paper on this subject had ever been inserted in the 'Philosophical Transactions,'—and that my experiments were carried on entirely without any knowledge of the same. My first trials with corrosive sublimate on the collodion film were thrown aside as entire failures, not because the pictures became whitened, but on account of the entire darkening effect produced by this salt in its first action, and it was only after repeated experiments and prolonged exposure that I found the whitening come on.—In fact, the first action of bichloride of mercury on paper and on collodion is totally different. On the former the picture is entirely obliterated—on the latter the negative drawing is instantly darkened many tones; and this property can be used to advantage in strengthening a weak negative, by merely stopping the action at this first stage."

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The Peel monuments are, so far as the work of the artist is concerned, everywhere drawing to completion,—and the course of the present year will, we presume, see the majority of them on the respective sites for which they are commissioned. The Bury statue being finished and ready for casting, we attended a private view to which the press and certain amateurs were invited at the sculptor's studio. Within those walls the colossal scale of the work shows, of course, more strikingly than it will in the open air—and it is difficult to get the distance point for which it has been calculated. All this will adjust itself in the actual locality for which it is planned.—The likeness, material and moral, in the now finished work, is something extraordinary. The question of costume we have already discussed,—and given our own opinion that for a statue to report to posterity of Sir Robert Peel, there was no proper escape into finer art from the demands of modern dress. The difficulty is here skilfully reconciled. The body coat sits as lightly and flowingly on the figure as if it were not such as a modern tailor would shape,—and the uncouth formal lines have been won into easy grace without the sacrifice of the familiar truth. Sir Robert Peel will stand in his native town as its citizens of this generation have seen him many and many a time; and will appeal to their children's children in conformity with the traditions—idealized without being broken.

The half-length portrait of the late Mr. Turner to which we alluded last week as having been composed out of the multiplied memoranda of his old friend, and now executor, Mr. Charles Turner, the eminent mezzotint engraver, is, we see, about to be engraved,—as last week we ventured to suggest it should. We have seen the portrait,—and nothing more characteristic of

the man need be conceived.—The original of the engraved portrait in Dance's series is amongst the collection of portraits of Academicians in the Royal Academy;—but the friends and admirers of the great painter will have the man "in his armour as he lived"—the singularity of dress, figure, manner, and almost mind, rendered—in the engraved copy of the likeness taken by Mr. Charles Turner.

We are sorry to find that among the Art-lovers occasioned by the conflagration at Washington are, an original portrait of Columbus, and another, a copy or composition, of the same great discoverer. An original of Cortez, others of Baron de Kalb, Bolivar and Judge Hanson, and Stuart's five earliest Presidents of the United States are also destroyed. Of the statuary burnt or materially destroyed the principal works are, Mill's bronze statue of Apollo, a bronze head of Washington, a figure of Jefferson, and busts of La Fayette and General Taylor, the late President of the Republic.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MUSICAL WINTER EVENINGS, WILLIS'S ROOMS.—The FIRST of Six Concerts will be given on THURSDAY, the 20th, at half-past eight o'clock.—Programme:—Quintet, D. Minor, Haydn.—Duet, Piano and Violoncello, in F, Beethoven.—Andante and Scherzo, Posthumous Quartet, Mendelssohn.—Brilliant Trio, in E, Op. 63, Hummel.—Solo Quartet, Spohr. Executants: Sainton, Schmidt, Hill, and Pinti; Pianist, Herr Fauer, who is arrived expressly to perform at this concert.—Subscription for the Series, 12. 10s.; single Tickets, 7s. each.—Prospectuses to be had of Cramer & Co., and all principal Music-sellers.—Parties of three or more can have reserved seats for the Season, on early application.—One hundred places are already taken.

J. ELLIS, Director.

ROYAL MARIONETTE THEATRE.—Triumphant Success! Unanimous praise of the entire Press! Crowded houses!—First Appearance of New Singers.—MONDAY, January 19, and every Evening during the Week, INITIATORY ADDRESS, by Mr. ALBANY BROWN: THE MANAGERS ROOM! Joke of the celebrated Italian Prince Donno SIGNORA BARBERE ALLENI BOMBASTY FURIOSO, with introduced Melodies, and the Grand Ballet of PAULINI; or, 'THE PUPIL OF NATURE'!—Doors to open at half-past seven, to commence at eight o'clock.

MORNING PERFORMANCES.—In consequence of numerous applications and the near termination of the Holidays there will be a MORNING JUVENILE PERFORMANCE on THURSDAY and SATURDAY NEXT, the 22nd and 24th inst.—The doors will be opened at half-past two, and commence at Three o'clock.

Private Boxes, 12. 1s.; Balcony Stalls, 3s.; Lower Stalls, 2s.; Balcony, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s.—Private Boxes, Stalls, &c. to be had of Mr. Mitchell, 38, Old Bond-street; Mr. Sans, 58, Jervis-street; Mr. C. Olivier, New Bond-street; of all the principal Librarians, and at the Box-office of the Theatre.

NEW VOCAL MUSIC.

The Wreck of the Hesperus: a Descriptive Ballad.—*Vogelweid, the Minnesinger: Ballad.*—*The Rainy Day: Song.* Written by H. W. Longfellow. *The Garland.* Translated from the Latin of Hier. Angermann, by T. Oliphant, Esq.—*The Blind Boy: a Pathetic Ballad.* By Colley Cibber. The Music composed by John L. Hatton.—The name of Mr. Hatton, as we have more than once had recent occasion to mention, is worth looking for,—his music being often thoughtful, frequently pleasing, generally well composed, and rarely disagreeable,—which is saying much for new music. If he would only decide whether he will be English or German, or if even he could present us with such a fusion of the styles of the two nations as should include any special forms or characteristics, he might rank high among his contemporaries of all countries. This, however, it seems as if as yet he cannot, or will not, do. 'The Wreck of the Hesperus' is liable to the objections which we urged [ante, p. 25] against the clever scenes of similar class by Mr. Duggan. The best of such essays is apt perilously to resemble the tinsel and tawdry tragedy of Mr. Russell's tales of shipwrecks, mad-houses, and like cheering spectacles. The worst have the absurdity of Mr. John Parry's burlesques,—without having also the quaint fun and the sound musical sense which contribute to the triumph of those marvellous whimsicalities. 'Vogelweid,' besides distancing English sympathies by the nationality of its subject, is liable to objection as being less graceful than the generality of Mr. Hatton's vocal writings. It is easy for any one to indulge in such progressions as belong to the line,

For (said he) from these sweet minstrels,—

but his triple repetition of a phrase in itself not very vocal can hardly be made acceptable by any charm of delivery.—As regards 'The Garland,' it may fairly be urged that Mr. Oliphant would have done well to leave untouched that sweet old classical fancy of which Moore made a new classical lyric in his 'By

Celia's arbour,'—and that Mr. Hatton in his setting of this second version comes after Horsley and Mendelssohn, who so beautifully in their respective styles clothed the first one with music. 'The Blind Boy' is our favourite among Mr. Hatton's five songs before us. This is a solid, unforced, expressive melody for a mezzo-soprano, written in that form of couplets with a coda which was such a favourite with Mendelssohn; and deservedly so, because of the combination of repetition with novelty and climax which it affords.

OLYMPIC.—'The Merchant of Venice' was again performed on Monday,—the part of Portia being attempted by a Mrs. Mead, a lady of elegant manners, but of a monotonous sadness of voice which failed to excite the audience to any enthusiasm. She may hereafter prove a respectable actress in a humbler class of character,—but is not naturally qualified for the Shaksperian heroine.

A pleasant piece, in one act, by Mr. Bankes, was produced on Thursday, entitled 'Organic Affection.' The hero is a humble copyist, a Mr. Doublequill Bunn (Mr. Compton), but with a soul above drudgery. His ambitious wishes are suddenly gratified,—he proves to be the heir of the rich Bunn of Bath. His excitement is extreme, and he is in danger of being immediately victimized by interested parties, one of them a French actress; but he is saved by a medical man, who feigns that his heart is affected, and that death may be caused by excess of excitement. Bunn is warned to abstain from wine and love. Acting on these suggestions, the actress is repudiated as being too beautiful and stimulant,—and a poor girl supposed to be blind of one eye is preferred. On the discovery that she also is beautiful, the doctor steps in and acknowledges the ruse.—The acting of Mr. Compton was remarkable for its vigour and fun. He entered with full relish into the humour of the part, and ensured the success of the farce.

MARIONETTE THEATRE.—An entertainment new in this country to the present generation of play-goers—but which such of them as have travelled in Italy and Germany will have met with often enough abroad—has just been opened in the large room of the Adelaide Gallery,—and forms a feature of much attraction in the sight-seeing world. Those who have witnessed the performances of the Bateman children at Drury Lane,—where the management is running them against Miss Glyn—will turn with great relief from the living puppets to these Marionettes—in which nature is copied without being *diverted*. The effect produced by the two several puppet-shows is diametrically opposite. In the one, we have the constant sense of clever imitation,—in the other, that of perversion. The feeling of likeness most skilfully contrived is the source of our enjoyment in the performance of the Marionettes,—that of incongruity is the cause of the pain with which, speaking for ourselves, we witness the performances of the Bateman children. The Marionettes are *bona fide* toys wrought up to a perfectness of action which is in itself a natural spring of enjoyment,—their rivals are children de-naturalized to make little men and women. The pigmy dimensions heighten the effect in one case,—mar it in the other. We confess, that of all the successive barbarous invasions that have taken possession of the stage from which nothing can exorcise the figures of Garrick, Siddons, Kemble, and Kean, none has seemed to us to desecrate it so completely as these human Marionettes,—because here the genius itself is mocked.

But to return to the little mechanical men and women who figure at the Adelaide Gallery:—no one who finds enjoyment in either the sense of imitation or the sense of the humorous can return otherwise than amused from their exhibition. The burlesque has here nothing to detract from the full mirth of its appeal. *Bombastes Furioso* never seemed so bombastic as in the hands of these tiny actors,—who have mouths furnished them from behind the scenes. The properties are furnished with a hand of unsparring liberality,—the performances cover a wide field of action,—and the

manager who governs them all is puppet No. 1,—as a manager of puppets should be. Of the dancing let Mr. Dickens speak—as he saw the same thing at Genoa.—"The way in which they dance; the height to which they spring; the impossible and inhuman extent to which they pirouette; the revelations of their preposterous legs; the coming down with a pause, on the very tips of their toes, when the music requires it; the gentleman's retiring up when it is the lady's turn; and the lady retiring up when it is the gentleman's turn; the final passion of a *pas de deux*; and the going off with a bound! I shall never see a real ballet with a composed countenance again!"—In a word, this little theatre is a scene of legitimate mirth. The puppets are true puppets,—and so, the laugh that hails their antics rings true and free. They imitate "flesh and blood" with all the more effect that we know they are not made of such.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Our last week's "Musical Gossip," page 58, col. 2, l. 53, contains a misprint of "summer" for "similar" claiming correction,—since it might lead to disappointment in those relying on the paragraph for announcement.—In addition to the other new undertakings of the year already announced, we must mention the *City Wednesday Concerts* at Crosby Hall. The prospectus of these entertainments promises that

"Each of these concerts will be divided into two parts:—the first consisting exclusively of selections from the great classical masters; the second of a miscellaneous selection from the works of the most favourite composers of the day, English and foreign, of acknowledged reputation—although not ranking as classics."

The musical conductor is M. A. Billet. The programme of the first Concert is judiciously varied,—though not graced with any very striking novelty. Where, indeed, is such, for the moment, to be found in the world of instrumental music?—Since we last wrote, Mr. E. Aguilar's first *Soirée*, exclusively devoted to the music of Beethoven, has been given.

The new opera at the *Haymarket*, it is said by Mr. Howard Glover, is announced to be performed on Wednesday next.

Mdlle. Cravelli is said in some degree to have reinstated herself in Parisian enthusiasm by her performance in 'La Sonnambula.'—Madame Barbieri-Nini has quitted Mr. Lumley's corps.—Signor Ferlotti, who is commended in *Galignani* as possessing a very beautiful voice, has made his *début* in Signor Ronconi's great part in 'Maria de Rohan'—assisted by Madame Fiorentini and Signor Guasco.—Madame Taccani-Tasca, who sang at the Italian Opera in Paris before the engagement of Madame Persiani, having recently returned to the stage, is again in Paris waiting to be gracious.—Madame Vera-Lorini—known to us as Mdlle. Vera—is also in Paris singing at concerts.—Madame Castellan is appearing in the repertory of grand tragic Italian opera at Brussels.

It seems only like yesterday that, when noticing 'La Foire aux Idées'—one of the many theatrical reviews of the French Revolution of 1848,—we translated the complaint of the Streets of Paris, who represented themselves as afflicted by having their names changed. Now that the Liberty trees are cut down, the *Théâtre Français* is to be the *Théâtre Français* once more, and the *Grand Opéra* the *Grand Opéra*; while in place of 'La Parisienne' or 'La Marseillaise,' the orchestras devoted to "the powers that be" strike up the March from Grétry's 'Caravane,' which was played before Napoleon. Our English eyes and ears will never grow too old to be entertained by these rapid substitutions of slide for slide in the magic lantern—of tune for tune in the music of the streets, at epochs when cares and interests of no ordinary gravity are pressing.—Meanwhile, the past few days appear to have been fruitful in novelties and revivals. 'La Butte des Moulins,' a work in three acts, by M. Adrien Boieldieu, has been produced at the *Théâtre de l'Opéra National*. Dalayrac's 'Nina'—in which perhaps the true tone of the subject is better caught than in Paisiello's opera,—has been revived at the *Opéra Comique*, for the *début* of a new singing actress, Mdlle. Favel.—Such of the Concert Societies as

have weathered the storm are re-commencing their meetings. There is no news of the resumption of the Philharmonic Concerts directed by M. Berlioz; but the extra meeting of the *Société St. Cécile*, mentioned some weeks since, as devoted to entirely new compositions, has been given. At this, the most remarkable and admired piece appears to have been the 'Sanctus' of M. Gounod, which was last year given in St. Martin's Hall.—Let us here note that the French journalists, with M. Berlioz at their head, are re-criticizing 'Sapho' on the occasion of its revival as an abbreviated opera, speaking of the music in terms of increased respect and admiration. We do not remember any previous instance of a second set of *feuilletons* devoted to one and the same composition,—and the fact is worth laying up in addition to other testimonies which one day may become matters of artistic history.

In the midst of all the chaotic music of Young Germany,—of which we think that no time nor persuasion can ever make us partisans,—we are glad to see that one of the German theatrical composers, of a more orderly class, is, after some pause, breaking silence. This is Herr Marschner,—a new opera by whom, 'Austin,' is about to be performed at the opera house of Hanover.—News has arrived that on the last anniversary of Mendelssohn's death—which was kept at Leipzig with some musical solemnity,—eight fragments from the oratorio 'Christ,' on which the composer was engaged at the time of his decease, were performed among other memorials of his earlier and later years. "The greater number of these," say the foreign papers, "were fugued choruses." We hope to hear these at some of our coming musical festivals.

After sundry "misfits," it appears as if at last that admirable comic actress, Mdlle. Déjazet, has been provided with another new part bidding fair to rival in popularity her *Gentil Bernard* or *Richelieu*. This is, in a story of a dream called 'Les Rêves de Mathews.'

Our contemporaries record the recent death of Mrs. Harlowe,—who will be remembered by old play-goers as an actress belonging in her time to Drury Lane Theatre.

MISCELLANEA

Putney Bridge.—Parliamentary notices have been given, and a company is advertised, for a new bridge from Putney to Fulham, which promises to be one of the cheapest and most elegant bridges on the river. The new bridge is to be of cast and wrought iron, 695 feet long, with five openings of 133 feet span, 20 feet above Trinity datum. The piers will be formed of cast-iron cylinders, 8 feet diameter, on Potts's process, and carried to such a depth that the conservators of the river may proceed with the dredging of the river to the extent they propose. Each pier will consist of four cylinders athwart. The bridge will, with its approaches, form a straight line from High Street, Putney, to High Street, Fulham, and get rid of the present dangerous curves. The engineer is Mr. Clegg, Jun.—*Architect*.

Royal Panopticon of Science and Art.—The plan of the building, which was designed and is being carried out by Messrs. Finden & Lewis, comprehends a grand central hall, 97 feet diameter, domed over for the exhibition of machinery, manufactures, works of art, &c., and for exhibitions of various descriptions. There will be a lecture-room, laboratory, &c. All the buildings are designed in the Saracenic style, after models and details, chiefly from the existing remains at Cairo. The contour of the dome is taken from a daguerreotype of a dome at Cairo. It will be formed of glass and iron on the ridge and furrow principle. The façade will be formed in cement.—*Builder*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—R. F.—G. M.—H. M'J.—M. F.—N. O.—Omega—An Early Subscriber—P. T. L.—V.—received.

DISCOVERER OF THE ELICITOTTE.—When we spoke of Mr. Dirks's "zeal," we had not the slightest intention of imputing to him any motive which he need disavow. But we cannot open our columns to a lengthened discussion of the relative claims of Mr. Spencer and Mr. Jordan to the above discovery. The matter is of no public interest; and, we repeat, that having already had occasion to examine it, we have satisfied ourselves that Mr. Spencer was at least an independent discoverer.

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Age when Assured.	Sum Assured.	PREMIUMS PAID.		Bonus added.	Per-centage on Premiums Paid.
		Number.	Amount.		
15	£3000	6	£315 0 0	£164 16 8	£32 6 6
25	2500	7	275 10 0	147 13 4	44 16 3
35	2000	6	431 17 6	183 18 0	42 11 8
45	2000	6	464 0 0	172 6 7	37 2 10

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20	1 13 10	1 13 10	45	2 9 9	2 10 7
25	1 13 10	1 13 10	50	6 1 0	6 7 4

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The Premium on Policies issued in the year..... £140,338 1 9
The expenses of the Company..... 5,839 13 0
The claims on deceased of Lives assured..... 83,691 1 9
The expenses of the Company..... 5,896 8 0
The total assets of the Company..... 704,010 14 0

The Report entered into further details, and finished by stating that the Directors felt it unnecessary to dwell further upon the items of the year's account, as the accounts and balance sheet made in June next was so near.

The Report was unanimously adopted, and some routine business having been disposed of, the Chairman of the meeting was very cordially voted to the Chairman, Directors, and Officers of the Company—when the meeting separated.

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1811	1000	33 9 2	£31 17 8
1818	1000	34 16 10	114 18 10

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1174	1810	1200	1160 5 6	2360 5 6
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1,000	13 years	100 0 0	157 10 0	1,157 10 0
1,000	7 years	157 10 0	1,157 10 0
1,000	1 year	25 10 0	1,025 10 0
500	13 years	50 0 0	78 10 0	578 10 0
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